



# CRUISE WINNERS IN *The Brooklyn Bride*

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## The Brooklyn Paper

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A Brooklyn Papers Publication

Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications, 55 Washington St., Ste 624, Brooklyn 11201. Phone 718-634-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 18 pages • Vol. 28, No. 28 AWP • Saturday, July 16, 2005 • FREE

# TERMINAL TERROR FEAR



The latest rendering of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan, designed by Frank Gehry. The high-rises dwarf the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower, pictured at far left.

## Study calls Atlantic Ave subway-LIRR complex prime spot for attack

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Less than a week after a terrorist attack on the underground subway system in London left more than 52 dead and 700 injured, a document examining the vulnerability of a once and potentially future target in Brooklyn has been released. The Brooklyn Papers was given a first look at the "white paper" report, titled "Terrorism, Security and the Proposed Brooklyn Atlantic Yards High Rise and Arena Development Project." The study examines safety and terrorism concerns involving developer Bruce Ratner's plan, issues that have been raised at community meetings on the proposed project over the past year. The report was completed July 6, a day

**EXCLUSIVE**

before the attacks in London. It addresses an overriding concern about any major development near the Atlantic Terminal transit hub that includes major subway stations and the Long Island Rail Road, at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, and outlines reasons the area could be an effective target for terrorists. The report includes an account of the 1997 planned bombing of the hub by terrorists operating out of a Park Slope apartment just blocks away. The most chilling reference of the report comes from the book "Jihad in Brooklyn," by Samuel M. Katz, who wrote about the effective

# MTA receives rival bid for Atlantic Yards

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

At first glance, the May 24 issuance of a request for proposals by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the development rights over the state agency's Vanderbilt Yards train tracks seemed a mere formality. After all, officials of real estate development company Forest City Ratner, and that company's principal owner Bruce Ratner, had spent the past year and a half in discussions with the MTA for the rights to build a professional basketball arena and 17 residential and commercial high-rises, including skyscrapers, over the Long Island Rail Road storage yards east of Flatbush Avenue in a development that would also include private property south of those train tracks.

So it was inevitable that the rival bid submitted by a Manhattan-based developer for the 8.5-acre rail yard site just before the July 6 deadline would turn some heads, to say the least.

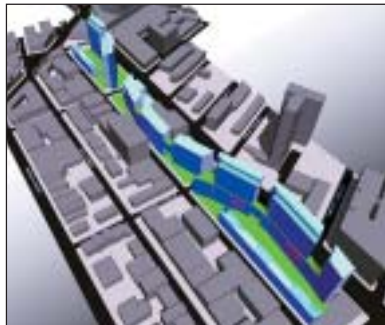
Extell Development Company, which recently purchased 77 acres of Upper West Side property from Donald Trump

## NEWS ANALYSIS

and his partners for \$1.8 billion, insisted in the face of scrutiny of their motivations last week that the bid was legitimate, earnest and sincere.

The Extell plan proposes 11 buildings, as opposed to Ratner's 17. The tallest would be 28 stories, whereas the Ratner plan's tallest peaks at 60 stories, dwarfing the iconic Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower. With 1,940 residential units and 116,000 square feet of office space, Extell's proposal pales in size to Ratner's looming, Frank Gehry-designed towers, part of a plan that also includes 1.9 million square feet of office space, and a 19,000-seat arena for Ratner's New Jersey Nets NBA team.

Extell's proposal also boasts some of the same community-centric ethos that Ratner's company touted at the signing on June 27 of a community benefits agreement, or CBA, witnessed by Mayor Bloomberg. The Extell design, by Brooklyn architects Cetra-Ruddy, snakes in waves across the three MTA blocks "like a train," as described by principal owner Gary Barnett.



Extell Development Company's plan for the rail yards along Atlantic Avenue is considerably smaller than the plan proposed by Bruce Ratner.

Extell would bring 1,940 residential units onto the MTA-owned site alone; Ratner's plan, extending beyond the MTA site, includes approximately 13 acres of adjacent private property, some of it subject to state condemnation under eminent domain, and envisions as many as 7,300 housing units.

## Community support

Barnett said he learned of the MTA's request for proposals through the solicitation of the anti-Ratner-plan-group Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB). He has, like Ratner, signed on to a community agreement of sorts.

Barnett has agreed to abide by the 60-point "Principles for Responsible Community Development" endorsed by at least 19 organizations including such community stalwarts as the Boerum Hill Association, Fifth Avenue Committee, Fort Greene Association and Pratt Area Community Council.

Ratner's CBA promised certain amenities to the co-signers, such as active roles in oversight of job development, hiring and training, and made commitments regarding construction work for minorities (35 percent) and women (10 percent) and the placement of public housing residents.

Extell's agreement is less specific in detailing its oversight structure and beneficiaries, but it commits Barnett's company in ways not envisioned under the Ratner plan: it promises to discover the taking of private property through eminent domain and to voluntarily put its proposal through the city's Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

Ratner's plan is excluded from ULURP, which is the most stringent review process in the state.

Extell has also promised to comply with contextual zoning regulations for the surrounding area, not exceed a 6.0 floor-area ratio in bulk, not close any public streets, partner with local housing advocates, guarantee 30 percent of the affordable housing units are owner-occupied, guarantee 20 percent of all construction work to minority and women-owned contractors and provide job training programs, ensure 100 percent of storm water run-off goes into a sewage treatment plant and assure more than 160,000 square feet of public park or open space.

"It's something we thought we could live with," said Barnett of the agreement. See **COMPETITION** on page 5

# Wal-Mart's thinking outside the big box

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

National discount retailer Wal-Mart is so interested in opening a store in New York City, and specifically Brooklyn, they're willing to change their big-box-store image, executives said at a June 30

meeting with Brooklyn reporters.

Company executives and their public relations representatives met reporters at the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street not to announce a specific New York City site — although they conceded that their local press outreach had not extended beyond Brooklyn — but to discuss what an urban Wal-Mart

might look like, and what competitors have taught them about this borough's "urban market."

"Each project is different," said Mia Masten, Wal-Mart's communications director.

"If we can't have it on a single story, we can do a tiered structure," she said. "There isn't an urban prototype per se, but it would have to be feasible for an urban market."

After a deal to build a Wal-Mart in Rego Park, Queens, fell through earlier this year the company began eyeing Brooklyn, among other locations in the city.

"Population alone is huge; we know that there are other retailers doing well here," said Masten. "We also know that Brooklynites want a Wal-Mart," she said, citing a study commissioned by the Marino Organization, the public relations firm representing the company. That study claims that 67 percent of Brooklynites would support the opening of a Wal-Mart in the borough. The survey interviewed 240 Brooklynites by telephone on Feb. 28 and March 1 of this year.

As part of the company's efforts to soften its image in the face of criticism, largely from labor unions, of its wage structure and other employment practices, Wal-Mart has adopted appearances that are aesthetically suitable to their environment, Masten said.

"We've gone past the old 'battleship blue' style, and now accommodate nationwide," said Masten. "Say, if it's going to be in a rural setting, we'll do like a mountain resort with an Adirondack look to it. In Main Street, it will appear more industrial," she said, and pointed towards an in-process renovation in White Plains, N.Y., where a Wal-Mart is being developed in a former Sears department

See **WAL-MART** on page 6



## Night and day

Fourth of July fireworks light up the sky above the Brooklyn Bridge during Macy's fireworks extravaganza (above). Below, the ocean and beach at Coney Island seemed filled to capacity earlier that day.



## Chowhounds

The hot dogs didn't stand a chance when some of the world's top competitive eaters descended on Coney Island July 4 for Nathan's Famous' annual Hot Dog Eating contest. (Left to right) American title holder Soye Thomas, world champ Takeru Kobayashi and Eric "Badlands" Booker all knocked back a lot of dogs, but perpetual champ Kobayashi retained his Mustard-Yellow Belt.

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# Arrest for baby-snatch

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a man who abducted a 16-month-old girl and held her for more than a day, sending police — and the baby's mother — on a frantic local search.

Javier Ruiz Martinez, 29, allegedly took the child to get back at her mother, a former roommate who had refused his sexual advances, police said. He was arrested on June 29 at 2:25 pm when he returned the child to the mother, who lives in an apartment on 46th Street

at Sixth Avenue.

The mother told police Martinez snatched the child around 9 am on June 28, when he was at the apartment they once shared retrieving some of his clothing. The mother tried throughout the day to contact Martinez and convince him to

return her baby.

The next morning, the woman called police, who launched a full search of the area, also involving police dogs. While the mother was talking with police, around 10:30 am, Martinez called and told her he would bring the

child home at 1 pm, officers said. Officers fanned out and waited and, when he arrived — late — at 2:25 pm, he was arrested.

The child, who had no immediate signs of abuse, was brought to Maimonides Medical Center for observation.

## Teacher from Park Slope charged with child-porn

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

A high school English teacher from Park Slope was arrested this week on charges that he e-mailed child pornography to a man in Florida, police say.

Craig Roffman, 29, a teacher at James Madison High School in Sheepshead Bay since September 2002, was arraigned July 12 on charges of possessing and promoting an obscene sexual performance of a child.

Roffman's bail was set at \$25,000, with the option of paying \$5,000 in cash up front, according to the district attorney's office. The teacher, who does not have a criminal record, was scheduled to return to court on July 15.

"He will not return [to teach] in the fall," Keith Kalb, a spokesman for the city Department of Education, told the Daily News, adding that the department is moving to fire Roffman immediately.

Roffman could not be reached for comment by press time.

Police arrested Roffman on July 12 after police with a warrant discovered pornography on the computer in his apartment. Newspaper reports said police were led to Roffman by lewd e-mails he had allegedly sent to a man in Palm Beach. The Florida man was also arrested, reports said, but the relationship between Roffman and the man was not clear.

Sources told one publication the e-mail contained pictures of children engaging in sex acts. Although police do not believe Roffman used school computers or behaved inappropriately while on the job, the investigation is continuing, reports said.

Roffman, like other teachers, is currently being paid during the summer vacation, Kalb told reporters. Because of his probationary status — he's been on the job less than three years — he can be fired, and will be before September, Kalb said.

## Slope cars, flute, stolen

The Brooklyn Papers

Six cars — and one flute — were stolen in Park Slope this month, including two Honda Civics and two Acura Integras.

A man, 50, found his 1996 Buick LeSabre stolen from its curbside parking spot near his home on Third Street at Fifth Avenue. The victim told police he parked at 5:30 pm June 29, and when he checked at 11 am July 2, the car was gone.

One July 4 weekend a 54-year-old man lost the 1995 Honda Civic he had parked in front of 22 Prospect Park West. The victim, who lives

on Carroll Street, told police he left the car parked on July 1, at 7 pm, and when he returned on July 5, at 4:30 pm, broken glass littered the spot where the car had been.

Thieves made off with another Honda, a 1993 Civic, sometime between 9:30 pm on July 2 and 7 am on July 3. The owner, a 35-year-old woman, told police she had parked the car on Sixth Avenue between Ninth and 10th streets, not far from her home.

A 38-year-old man had his 2002 Audi sedan stolen from Union Street, near Seventh Avenue, after 3:30 pm on Independence Day. The Fifth Avenue resident told police that when he returned, at 9:30 am on July 5, the vehicle was gone.

A 1996 Acura Integra was

snatched from its spot on Fifth Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues. The owner, a 37-year-old North Carolina resident, told police he had parked the car at 5:30 pm on July 4. By 8:30 the next morning the car was gone.

Two Illinois women lost their 1996 Acura Integra full of personal items sometime on July 9. The owner, 72, and her friend, 46, parked the vehicle on Plaza Street West, between Prospect Park West and Union Street, just after midnight on July 9. When they returned, at 2:30 pm, the car was gone, the two women told police. The women said the car contained a backpack, sleeping bag and other items — including a flute.

—Lilo Stainton

## HS hit thrice

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

Thieves hit the same Boorum Hill high school three times in less than a month.

Police Officer Ron Fagan, of the 84th Precinct, said the robberies have prompted cops to pay extra attention to the Brooklyn High School of the Arts, on Dean Street between Third and Fourth avenues. One patrol surprised a would-be robber on a ladder, but the man escaped, he said.

"Everybody's aware of it. They've got all their pins on the map," Fagan said.

A spokesman for the Department of Education referred questions about the crimes to the police department. School security is handled by the police department, Education Department spokesman Keith Kalb said, adding that school safety officers do not usually patrol at night.

Kalb said the principal at the High School of the Arts, Robert Finley, was on vacation and could not be reached to answer specific security questions. Police officials did not respond to questions regarding their role in school security.

On July 6, a janitor at the high school told police that when he was opening the building, at 7:30 am, he noticed that a side window had been pushed open. He said a Dell computer, valued at \$900, was missing.

The robbers had tried to break into several other rooms, the janitor said, but this time they were unsuccessful.

### LEGAL NOTICES

161 UTECA LLC. Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC). Name: 161 UTECA, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/10/2005. Office location: Kings County (SSNY) has been designated as Agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY will mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon the LLC, 5409 Avenue B, Brooklyn, NY 11224. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2007. Personal character of LLC. To merge in any limited liability company.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 12th day of July 2005, bearing the Index Number N050852005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in case 0501005 grants me rights to Assume the name of: Victoria Zheng. My present address is: 2977 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11223. My date of birth is: Guangdong, China. My date of birth is: November 12, 1972.

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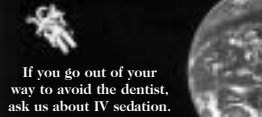
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# Grand in jewels lifted from bank

By Lilo Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

Thieves snatched a bag holding more than \$1,000 in jewelry from a woman inside a Montague Street bank on the afternoon of June 7, the woman told police.

The Brooklyn Heights woman, 36, said the gift was grabbed around 2:20 pm when she set the bag down on a table while preparing her bank transaction. The victim told police that officials at the bank, near Clinton Street, refused to let her view the security tape without a police report or court order.

She said the bag contained a pair of turquoise earrings valued at \$250, gold and emerald earrings valued at \$200, a silver necklace valued at \$150, two gold necklaces and a pair of gold medallions with an image of the Virgin Mary, valued at \$400 together, and three coral earrings valued at \$100.

### DUMBO break-ins

A clothing company at 55 Washington St. was robbed of more than \$3,000 in electronic equipment one weekend in late June.

The 34-year-old business owner told police she left the office at 5 pm on June 24. When she returned at 9:30 am on June 27, she noticed the office door had been jimmied and found plaster chunks on the floor.

The woman said desk drawers had been opened and a Sony digital camera, worth \$500, and an Apple G4 laptop, valued at \$2,769, was missing.

The burglary was just one in a recent spate of robberies at the office building off Front St. But police from the 84th Precinct, who have had the office under surveillance, believe they may have caught a man responsible for some of those robberies.

On June 28, police from the 84th Precinct arrested a 43-year-old Fort Greene man,

## POLICE BLOTTER

who they found lurking around the building at 10:30 pm.

Police said they are working to link him to the string of burglaries.

The man was arraigned on July 7 and charged with criminal trespassing, according to the district attorney's office. He is due back in court on Aug. 1.

### Lawyer robbed

A Brooklyn prosecutor having lunch at a Montague Street diner had her pocketbook — containing her badge — grabbed from the back of her chair on June 30.

The 30-year-old victim told police she was dining with a friend at the restaurant, located between Hicks and Henry streets, around 1:15 pm. When she went to pay the bill, she noticed the bag was gone.

The woman told police the purse contained an assistant district attorney's badge, cell phone, various bank and credit cards, health care identification, her Social Security card, a membership card for the California Bar Association, paperwork from the Kings County District Attorney's office and \$25 in cash.

### York St. mug

A Manhattan woman was robbed at gunpoint the night of July 9 after leaving the York Street F-train subway station.

The victim, 36, told police she was walking along York Street, near Jay Street, at 9:25 pm, when she saw a man lingering at the corner of Bridge and Front streets.

She told police the man followed her and, when she reached Hudson Avenue, displayed a black handgun.

"Give me your wallet," he demanded.

The woman said she turned over her purse, which contained her cell phone, three credit cards, a driver's license, house keys, \$30 in cash and a

pair of Amtrak train tickets valued at \$140.

She described her attacker as a black man, about 5-foot-7 and 160 pounds, dressed in a white shirt and hat.

### Servers snaggd

Robbers hit a DUMBO laboratory over the Independence Day weekend, making off with computer equipment and credit cards.

A worker at the Jay Street business, near Front Street, told police the facility was closed from 8 pm on July 2 until 11 am on July 5.

When employees returned after the holiday break, they found a window was open and an Apple G3 computer tower, an external hard drive and two credit cards were gone.

### Daytime grab

Thugs snatched a woman's pocketbook the afternoon of July 6 as she walked down Fulton Street.

The victim, 56, told police she was strolling eastbound, toward Nevins Street, at 4 pm. She said a pair of thieves shoved her to the ground from behind, grabbed her pocketbook and fled.

She told police the purse contained \$300 in cash, welfare and other benefit cards, and her debit card. She was unable to describe her attackers.

### Fighting words

An early-morning argument between two young men at Bond and Schermerhorn streets grew violent when one pulled a knife.

The 18-year-old victim, who was with a 20-year-old friend at the time of the fight, was treated at Brooklyn Hospital Center for slash wounds after the man with whom he was fighting pulled out a switchblade and cut him on the upper right arm.

The incident took place around 1:30 am on July 9.

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# Purse-satchlers are targeting Macy's job

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

Three women had their purses snatched from bathroom stalls at the Macy's department store on Fulton Mall recently, with two victims hit within hours of each other on July 8.

A spokeswoman for the Manhattan-based department store chain, Elina Kazen, said the company has been aware of robberies at the Fulton Mall location.

"Our store is monitored by security personnel, both uniformed and plainclothes, to ensure customer and sales associate safety, as well as safeguard personal belongings. We are working with local authorities in their efforts to prevent future occurrences at our Downtown Brooklyn store," Kazen said in a written statement.

A 49-year-old woman told police that when she used the department store's bathroom at

3:15 pm on July 8, she hung her pocketbook on the hook inside the stall door. As she was leaving, she realized the purse was gone.

Less than an hour later, transit

police found her wallet on the A train; her pocketbook was soon recovered on Jay Street. The victim said the only items missing were a cell phone, house keys and a credit card that had been

used to charge \$10 worth of items at a nearby store.

At 6 pm that day, a 54-year-old victim suffered a similar fate. The woman told police that her purse was also snatched from the back of the door as she used the bathroom.

But this victim was not lucky enough to get her belongings back. She told police she lost multiple credit cards, her debit card, work identification, health insurance cards, a driver's license, her cell phone, house keys and eyeglasses.

The bathroom bandits have been active on other days, too.

On June 28, a 71-year-old woman told police her bag was grabbed from the third-floor restroom around noon. As with the later robberies, the purse was hanging on the back of the stall door.

The victim told police her purse contained \$127, credit and debit cards, her non-driver identification card, a MetroCard, keys and an umbrella.

## NY1's 'Road' leads to Brooklyn Heights

The Brooklyn Papers

Cable news channel NY1 brings its "The Road To City Hall" show to St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights on Wednesday, July 20. The special two-hour program will broadcast live from the college on Remsen Street from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Special guests will include Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, Deputy Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes, City Councilwoman Letitia James and Mafra Khan of the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development.

Topics will include education, crime, and the Atlantic Rail Yards project. To reserve free tickets for the event, call (718) 489-3272.

## LEGAL NOTICE

State University of New York, Notice to Bidders, The State University of New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 05-154 titled: Replacement of Road until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on July 18, 2005 at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Room 8-1.5, where such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Design and Construction of office space and storage space is needed in order to move staff from the basement of the Basic Sciences Building to the Penthouse. The construction will include but not be limited to site work, mechanical modifications such as heat and air conditioning. A shall not be limited to work on the Contract is to be completed within 120 calendar days starting on the date of the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller. Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus and at Downtown Medical Center, Room 1-15, Basic Sciences Building, SUNY Downtown Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718) 270-3039, or at the Contract Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$35.00, made payable to SUNY Downtown Medical Center, is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are non-refundable. Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid. It is the policy of the State of New York and the Division of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to encourage minority business participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy. Contracted personnel must meet C.A.D. Accreditation requirements. The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Brownefield Cleanup Program. The Name: 388 Brooklyn, LP Site. Site Address: 64-88 1st Street, B2107 1st Street, 119-145 2nd Street, 357-379 3rd Street, 452-462 4th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. County: Kings. Site No.: C28114. Requester: SUNY Brooklyn, LP The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) administers the Brownefield Cleanup Program (BCP) pursuant to State Environmental Conservation Law (SECL) 27-1402 and the BCP was created to encourage the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties known as brownfields. The reporter indicated above has submitted a BCP application for investigation of the site indicated above. NYDEC will accept public comments concerning the application. A copy of the application and other appropriate documents (application package) is available in the site document repository located at the address indicated below. NYDEC will review the application package and public comments received and then make a determination on the eligibility of the site for the BCP. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Environmental Conservation - Region 2 Office, 47-21 21st Street, Long Island City, New York 11101. Attention: Dawn Smith, Regulatory and Compliance Section, 396 3rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. Phone: 718-556-4772.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF KINGS. In re: JAMES WILLIAM RAINS, Defendant(s); ACTION FOR A DIVORCE. Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of the trial. The trial shall be held on or about July 22, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 11224, Phone No.: 718-264-1555. NOTICE: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DEC. 177025: Abandonment. The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff, dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action. The nature of any ancillary or additional relief demanded is child custody, child support, maintenance, exclusive possession of the marital residence and its contents, health and disability insurance for the benefit of the Plaintiff and the children of the parties, equitable distribution of marital property and/or distribution award, counsel fees, experts fees, and any other relief the court deems fitting and proper.

PUBLIC NOTICE: TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned shall appear for sale, in accordance with R.S. 20:104(a), at public auction on July 29, 2005, 10:00am at 138 Logan Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07310, the below described motor vehicle which came into possession of the Logan Auto, Inc. through abandonment or failure of owner to claim same. The motor vehicle may be examined at 138 Logan Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07310. Make: Dodge, Year: 1994, Model: Dodge, VIN: 1H2FPA6C236017482, Logan Auto, Inc., The Deal Outlet, President.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 6th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050672005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CHIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: James Evans. My present name is: James McGee aka James Evans. My present address is 511 Union Place, Brooklyn, New York 11238. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is March 21, 1958.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 6th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050672005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CHIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Lisa David Lee Salazar. My present name is: Lisa David Lee Salazar. My present address is 1054 Bergen Street, #4d, Brooklyn, New York 11218. My place of birth is:

New York, New York. My date of birth is October 1, 2002.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 5th day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050672005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CHIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Alquisa Raphaela Goodie. My present name is: Alquisa Raphaela Goodie. My present address is 1185 64th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11221. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 20, 1967.

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Sweet Treats Baking Company, LLC. Name: Sweet Treats Baking Company, LLC. 905 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11213. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SOS) LLC on 04/18/05. Office location: Kings County, SUNY Hall, 4th floor, 119-145 2nd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. Purpose: for any lawful purpose.

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New York, New York. My date of birth is October 1, 2002.

described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale, listed subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale.

Applicable amount of costs: INDEX NO. 04020331 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 31072004. David Barlow, Esq., REFEE.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of July, 2005, bearing the Index Number N050672005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CHIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Cameron Dossan Boyd. My present name is: Edwin Dossan Boyd. My present address is 1448 54th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11238. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is March 7, 1987.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Brownefield Cleanup Program. The Name: 388 Brooklyn, LP Site. Site Address: 64-88 1st Street, B2107 1st Street, 119-145 2nd Street, 357-379 3rd Street, 452-462 4th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. County: Kings. Site No.: C28114. Requester: SUNY Brooklyn, LP The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) administers the Brownefield Cleanup Program (BCP) pursuant to State Environmental Conservation Law (SECL) 27-1402 and the BCP was created to encourage the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties known as brownfields. The reporter indicated above has submitted a BCP application for investigation of the site indicated above. NYDEC will accept public comments concerning the application. A copy of the application and other appropriate documents (application package) is available in the site document repository located at the address indicated below. NYDEC will review the application package and public comments received and then make a determination on the eligibility of the site for the BCP. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Environmental Conservation - Region 2 Office, 47-21 21st Street, Long Island City, New York 11101. Attention: Dawn Smith, Regulatory and Compliance Section, 396 3rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. Phone: 718-556-4772.

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July 25th  
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#3: Do Not Use My Name in Vain  
Aug. 8th  
#4: Remember the Sabbath  
Aug. 15th  
#5: Respect your Father and Mother  
Aug. 22nd  
#6: Do Not Murder  
Aug. 29th  
#7: Do Not Commit Adultery  
Sept. 5th  
#8: Do Not Steal  
Sept. 12th  
#9: Do Not Bear False Witness  
Sept. 19th  
#10: Do Not Covet

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# Cops nab 'D' flasher

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

A flasher on the D train was nabbed by two off-duty police officers on their way to work the morning of June 30.

The suspect, 34, was arrested after he allegedly exposed himself at 6:10 am, as the south-bound train rolled into the Pacific Street station. Police Officers Maquina Lawrence and Hazel Wike-Gray say they were heading to the police investigative unit in Sunset Park when they witnessed the man expose himself and arrested him.

The flasher, who first told police he was from Long Island, but provided a Brooklyn address to the district attorney's office, was charged with public lewdness and faced a \$500 bail.

## Indigestion

A wallet belonging to a 30-year-old Staten Island woman was stolen from her pocketbook in a diner on Prospect Park West, she told police.

The woman said that on July 5, at 5:55 pm, thieves snatched her pink purse, containing \$500 and credit cards, from her black bag as she dined at the restaurant, located between 14th and 15th streets. Police arrested a 15-year-old boy for the robbery and recovered the pink purse, \$271 in cash and all but one credit card. Two other suspects escaped.

## Airbag grab

Thieves snatched the airbags from three late-model Hondas in Park Slope, with two hits occurring on the same Berkeley Place block.

A man and a 40-year-old woman told police they parked a 2001 Honda four-door sedan on Berkeley Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues, the block where they live, at 4:30 pm July 7, and returned at 9:30 am July 8 to find the passenger-side window broken and two airbags cut out.

Burglars also ripped the airbags from a 2005 Honda Pilot parked on the same block. The 40-year-old man who owns the vehicle, who lives on Eighth Avenue, told police he parked the car at 4 pm July 7, and returned at 11:30 am July 10 to find a

## POLICE BLOTTER

window smashed and the pricey safety devices gone.

A 29-year-old Scarsdale woman told police she left her 2002 Honda Civic on Second Street at Eighth Avenue, at 8:30 pm on July 7. When she returned the next day, at 8:25 am, the rear driver's-side window was shattered and the airbags were gone.

## Purse poached

A Park Place resident had her purse snatched moments after she unlocked her door the night of July 7.

The 64-year-old woman, who wouldn't allow police to investigate further, told officers she returned at 10:30 pm and set her bag down inside the entranceway of her home, between Fifth and Sixth avenues. She didn't close the door and, when she returned moments later, the bag was gone.

## Knife-point rob

A Fifth Avenue deli clerk was threatened with a knife and robbed at midnight on June 27.

A worker at the grocery, near 26th Street, told police that a man came into the shop with a knife in his waistband displaying a knife. The robber went behind the counter and

tried to open the register on his own. Fearing for his safety, the clerk told police, he gave the man \$150. The robber fled on bicycle down Fifth Avenue.

## Rung up

Thieves snatched the cash register from a Ninth Street restaurant after threatening a worker with a possible gun in the pre-dawn darkness.

The 19-year-old employee told police he emerged from the cellar of the restaurant, located at Eighth Avenue, at 3:30 am on July 7, when two robbers followed him back inside. One thrust a metal object — which he believed was a gun — behind his ear and forced him to the floor. The second robber yanked the register from the counter. While the machine itself was valued at \$400, at the time it only contained \$10 in coins.

The pair then fled on foot toward Prospect Park West. A woman walking through Prospect Park several hours later, at 7:40 am, on her way to work, found a smashed cash register near a picnic table.

The restaurant employee, who was not injured, told police the robbers were both wearing tan stocking caps to conceal their faces.

## Federal offense

A postal worker was ordered to keep delivering packages after he was robbed at knife-point on June 25.

The uniformed mail carrier told police he was robbed at 11:45 am as he left his vehicle to deliver a package at 64th Street near Fourth Avenue, just around the corner from the precinct stationhouse. The postal employee said a young man, between 16 and 18 years old, brandished a knife and demanded the package.

When the postal worker reported the robbery to his supervisor, he was told to continue his delivery route, according to police.

## Shot in window

A 33-year-old woman was shot in her upper left thigh July 4 while gazing out the window of an apartment on 51st Street.

The woman, whose building is near Fifth Avenue, told police she heard a "pop" outside around 6:30 pm and looked out a front window. When she looked down, she noticed blood pouring from her leg and called 911.

Police canvassed the rooftop and the area but found nothing. The victim was treated for the gunshot wound — the bullet had gone through her leg — and released from Lutheran Medical Center.

## Cyclist mows down 72-year-old woman

The Brooklyn Papers

An elderly woman was struck and critically injured on July 3 by a speeding motorcyclist who police said was drunk.

Ivan Rodriguez, 36, of 44th Street, was arraigned July 8 on a bevy of charges including two counts of vehicular assault, assault, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and driving without a license.

Witnesses told police Rodriguez borrowed a friend's 1996 Kawasaki without permission and, at 8:45 pm, while speeding westbound on 47th Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, ran the woman down.

The 72-year-old victim, who lives on 47th

Street, was taken to Lutheran Medical Center with serious head trauma. Police sources said she was not expected to survive and, at press time, Lutheran Medical Center no longer had her listed as a patient, but could not confirm her status.

Rodriguez was also transported to Lutheran Medical Center for the scraped knees he suffered in the accident. He refused to supply blood for an alcohol test, but a breath analyzer later revealed his blood alcohol level to be .097, say police. The legal limit in New York State is .08.

The district attorney's office said Rodriguez was arraigned on July 8 and bail was set at \$5,000. His attorney, Michael Letwin, was on vacation and could not be reached for comment. — Stainton



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Date Posted: June 30, 2005

# Competition at Atlantic Yards...

Continued from page 1

## Using the yards

Unlike the Ratter plan, Barnett's plan does not require relocation of the rail yards.

But Barnett would expect to get the \$200 million in city and state infrastructure that has been offered to Forest City Ratner by the mayor and governor since a platform would still need to be built over the rail yards.

"Certain parts of the site will need the platform," Barnett told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "We're not asking the MTA to fund any of those infrastructure improvements. Our understanding is the city and the state both have appropriated money for that; our understanding is that it is not exclusive to any one developer."

"Other than that we don't anticipate any other subsidies than the incentives for the inclusion for affordable housing," he said.

But while Barnett offered his bid at the same time as Forest City Ratner, Ratner has nearly two years of prep work behind him.

For starters, he already owns a substantial swath of property in the area. And Ratner enjoys the wholehearted support of both Gov. George Pataki, who staffs most of the MTA board, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Even the MTA request for

proposals seemed tailor-made to Ratner, stating that the "City of New York's designated Atlantic Terminal Urban Renewal Area developer has proposed a high density mixed-use project for the site and surrounding parcels including an arena."

## Arena allies

Only a day after Estell's bid was announced, it was assailed by Borough President Marty Markowitz, whose dream of bringing an NBA team to Brooklyn—to restore some of the local sports glory taken away by the Brooklyn Dodgers when the baseball team fled for Los Angeles after the 1957 season—has been acknowledged as a catalyst for the creation of Ratner's plan.

He has been a cheerleader for Ratner's plan since it was announced in late 2003.

"The Estell proposal may benefit the small number of people who are opposed to the Ratter plan, but it certainly doesn't benefit most Brooklynites," complained Markowitz in a prepared statement.

"Where's the affordable housing? Where's the job outreach for the community?" he said.

"I've always said that competing proposals are welcome for the rail yards site and it is certainly a healthy thing that another bid has been put forth," the statement contin-

ued. "I expect the MTA to make the best possible comprehensive deal for the state, New York City, Brooklyn and public transit. That deal should produce significant tax revenue, jobs and housing. It should also include an arena."

"Estell's proposal appears to provide minimal affordable housing," he said. "It does not include an arena and lacks the significant job training and job creation of [Forest City Ratner's] bid."

Barnett called Markowitz's "I'm not sure why he thinks it's not beneficial to greater Brooklyn," he said. "What is the matter with a moderate and substantial project that re-

pairs and modifies two neighbors?"

"So his thinking is that if there was an arena, he would support our project?" Barnett wondered, and pointed out that a project should be based on what it brings into a community as a whole.

Barnett added that his project would include a school near where the arena is planned under Ratner's plan, an idea that he said was well received.

"I think [our plan] does have community support. It seems to me our project has merit and it is a good development; the only thing it seems is missing is an arena for Brooklyn."

"We're certainly not advoc-

ating whether there should be an arena or shouldn't be an arena, and I'd love to have the support of the borough president," Barnett said, adding that an arena was not out of the question under his plan.

"I think perhaps a solution could be found if everybody wants to have an arena," he said.

## All aboard

Asked for the dollar-value of his bid, Barnett said he would not disclose the amount of respect to the MTA, but said he would like to see the agency put the information out there.

"We would be very content if the MTA were to release all

information about the various bids," he said.

Ratner's executives agreed. "We will share information about the bid once it is presented to the board," said Joe DePasco, a spokesman for Forest City Ratner, who touted the community benefits agreement as representing "a broad coalition of community representatives."

Still, anti-Ratner-plan community organizations turned out July 7 on the steps of City Hall, along with Councilwoman Letitia James, state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery and Congressman Major Owens to offer their support, unsolicited, to the Estell bid.

"We, the people, say these are our streets," said James. "We, the people, say this is our community. A plan that respects us is a plan that doesn't involve eminent domain."

The MTA board could make a decision as soon as its July 27 monthly meeting, but does not have a deadline.

# ATLANTIC TERROR...

Continued from page 1

tive thwarting by police and detectives of the 84th Precinct of the terrorist plan to pipe-bomb the Atlantic Terminal.

"Built-in design flaws" of the Ratter buildings—designed by noted architect Frank Gehry—include "a perimeter of high-rise towers surrounding an open central green area with only five street entrances to the entire 24-acre complex," according to the report, which was based on recent overhead renderings released by Forest City Ratner, the developer's company. It also cites underground parking in the plan as an attraction to terrorist bomb plotters.

The concerns about lack of building setbacks in the report find that buildings abutting sidewalks in such close proximity serves in "maximizing the blast effects of any car or truck bomb passing by," stating the result could be "widespread physical destruction and loss of life."

Officials with Forest City Ratner, including Executive Vice President Bruce Bender, have said the current designs for a 19,000-seat arena directly over the largest transportation hub in Brooklyn, the At-

lantic Terminal— which services 11 subway routes, is in close proximity to three other lines and connects to the commuter Long Island Rail Road—came as the result of amending earlier conceptions the company had of building an elevated arena that would arch over property already owned by Forest City Ratner to create a gateway between their existing Atlantic Center mall, Atlantic Terminal mall and fallow land on the other side of Atlantic Avenue.

Bender explained they were deterred from that design after an expert showed them how a truck bomb could blow up the entire structure if it drove underneath the overhead platform.

Forest City Ratner's spokesman declined to comment for this article. The report was solicited by members of the local community and Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB), a neighborhood group formed in opposition to Ratner's plan to build a professional basketball arena and 17 high-rises, some of them skyscrapers, on a swath of Prospect Heights that emanates from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

The community members commissioned Christina Cope, an environmental policy analyst for the Department of Defense, and Alan Rosner, a Prospect Heights resident, who is a retired strategic and business analyst for Metro-North. Rosner is also a member of DDDB.

Considering a series of likely and admittedly not-so-likely scenarios, the eight-page report outlines issues raised by the arena's proximity to the major transportation hub; "critical land transportation routes" of the three major cross-borough roadways of Fourth, Flatbush and Atlantic avenues; intention to have large-scale events there; and lack of set-backs of buildings from the streets.

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# BOBBY ALLEN'S

## Borough author Maury Allen chronicles Dodgers '55 season

By Ed Shakespeare  
for The Brooklyn Papers

A half-century has passed since the Brooklyn Dodgers defeated the New York Yankees for their first and only World Series title, and the number of books written about the Dodgers during that time can fill a library.

But fans of Dem Bums contend that there can never be enough written about their Brooklyn heroes.

Maury Allen's new book, "Brooklyn Remembered: The 1955 Days of the Dodgers" proves this premise correct in a loving and insightful tribute to a team, place and era.

Allen, a Brooklyn-born sportswriter who worked for the New York Post and Sports Illustrated and has written 30 books, recently spoke in an interview at a book signing at the Barnes and Noble on Court Street in Brooklyn Heights.

"My background is a classic Brooklyn," said Allen. "My father was a coffee salesman, and we lived in Bensonhurst. When World War II came, we moved to Flatbush, and I was 8 or 9 years old at the time, and that's when I really became a fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers."

War was raging around the world, yet the domestic scene was safe, and a young boy could travel at will and go to a major league game that didn't cost a fortune.

"It was easy to go on the Brighton (BMT subway) Line from where I lived to Prospect Park, which was near the Ebbets Field," recalled Allen.

"We would go to at least 30 or 40 games a year. We would pack two sandwiches, and the bleacher seats were 55 cents."

For a young fan in those days, getting autographs from players didn't mean waiting in line for a signature and a grant after paying big bucks at an indoor card show. Instead, kids stood in the sun at Ebbets Field and talked to the players, who signed for free.

"We'd get to the game about four hours early because the big attraction in those days was bat-



Maury Allen, who's book, "Brooklyn Remembered," details the 1955 World Series victory by the Brooklyn Dodgers, read and signed copies at the Brooklyn Heights Barnes and Noble store on Court Street. He will sign books next Friday, July 22, at KeySpan Park.

ting practice," said the author.

"The players in Ebbets Field always came over to the screen and talked to the fans, and I'd talk to Pee Wee Reese, Jackie Robinson and Carl Furillo."

Not only could fans of all ages talk to the Dodgers at the ballpark, but away from the field was a culture far different from that of today, when some multi-millionaire ballplayers travel with an entourage and live among other multi-millionaires.

The Dodgers, who made merely average to very good salaries, lived in Brooklyn, in the same neighborhoods as their fans, sometimes in the upstairs of the same houses as the fans below.

"The Dodgers were really a significant part of the community and that, for me, carried the most significance about the Brooklyn Dodgers," said Allen.

"The players and their families lived in Brooklyn neighborhoods. Their wives were known in the local stores and the players would

carpool to the games. A lot of the players stayed here during the winter time, and Gil Hodges married a local Brooklyn girl, Joan Lombardi, and Gil moved permanently to Brooklyn."

The 1955 Dodgers weren't like today's Yankees, who seem to be an all-star team with players turning over rapidly. The 1955 Dodgers were a veteran

team whose core players had been together since 1948. They didn't just wear Brooklyn on their jerseys; they were a part of the borough.

"All of the players who survive still have a tremendous emotional connection to Brooklyn," said Allen.

In "Brooklyn Remembered," Allen interviews all 11 players remaining from the 1955 team: Duke Snider, Don Zimmer and George Shuba, plus pitchers Johnny Podres, Clem Labine, Roger Craig, Don Newcombe, Carl Erskine, Ed Roebuck, Billy Loos and Sandy Koufax.

Allen also talks with family members of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese, and the author includes a section on Joe Pignatano, of Bay Ridge who was with the Dodgers in spring training in 1955 and who made the big club in 1957 in time to catch the last innings of the final game at Ebbets Field.

"Brooklyn Remembered" takes readers on an informal and entertaining journey back in time. We find out that Brooklyn native Sandy Koufax, one of the best pitchers of all-time, wasn't entirely happy with the 1955 season.

"I felt I could have pitched more," the Hall of Fame left-hander, then a young pitcher noted for his lack of pitching control, tells Allen 50 years later.

In view of all of the upcoming events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1955 Dodgers, Allen's insightful "Brooklyn Remembered" is a must-read for all fans of Brooklyn baseball.

## WAL-MART...

Continued from page 1  
store building.

"In the California area we're now doing Spanish-style stores. They're trying to modify the architecture so the site reflects the other scenes around it."

Would a Brooklyn-based Wal-Mart be in the shell of a couple of brownstones? "Yeah, to the

extent we could find the space, yeah, I think that could work," Masten agreed.

Rumors circulated last December, just after Wal-Mart announced plans to open in Rego Park, that the company was also eyeing a spot on Flatbush Avenue Extension near the Gallery at Fulton Mall shopping center. Officials said at the time that this was not a potential location, and the Martino Organization's Leo Silberman, a spokesman for Joseph Sitt, the current property owner there, agreed.

Instead, what would really hit the spot for the company is to have their fiercest competitor in their sights.

Target, which last year opened in the Atlantic Terminal mall, at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, has been a huge success — reportedly the best first-year year seen by the company, according to Crain's New York Business.

Crain's also reported that the two-level store — which sits over a hub of 11 subway lines and the Long Island Rail Road — is the eighth most successful Target in the country. The 192,000-square-foot store includes a pharmacy, and carries a range of goods from aspirin and appliances to groceries and cheap-chic apparel.

Target has 1,330 stores in 47 states, and Wal-Mart boasts 5,233 stores worldwide, including Supercenters (which have supermarkets, as well, Wal-Mart's Club bulk stores, and smaller neighborhood or "general merchandise" stores.

Masten said Wal-Mart already spends roughly \$100 million a year buying merchandise from Brooklyn vendors — "everything from candles to clothing to dolls to foodstuff," and could tailor what the store carries to meet the population's needs, including not selling guns or rifles.

"It depends on the community," she said. "In New Haven, the police chief and clergy met with officials and asked them not to sell firearms. So we agreed."

The Wal-Mart executives were mum, at the June 30 sit-down with reporters, on where, specifically, the company was looking, but all but ruled out rumors that Red Hook was a prime location for the typically big-box stores of 134,000-square-foot or more.

Ikea is building a 346,000-square-foot store on a 22-acre former New York Shipyard site between Dwight and Columbia Streets along the Erie Basin in Red Hook.

"I think there was a lot of attention there last year," said Masten. "Red Hook came up really strong last year, and we never had taken a look at any specific sites in Red Hook. Right now we're not looking there."

Phil Sergianni, Wal-Mart's Northeast community affairs manager, added, "When we look at a piece of land we look at particulars such as subway transportation," he said.

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# Eminent domain fight

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

In response to the Supreme Court's ruling last month affirming the right of governments to take private property in the name of economic development, bills are gaining momentum in both the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate that would bar federal tax dollars from being used for projects that employ eminent domain.

The legislation could cut off affordable housing subsidies to developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards plan, which proposes to build a 19,000-seat basketball arena and 17-tower office and residential complex at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, and which threatens the use of eminent domain for up to 13 acres of private property.

Ratner and his major supporters, who include the mayor and governor, have said the massive development would bring in new tax revenues for the public good, although Ratner executives have long claimed that the area of Prospect Heights where they want to build is blighted, and therefore qualifies for eminent domain regardless of the Supreme Court ruling.

On June 30, conservative-leaning Republicans in the House responded in force to the Supreme Court ruling, which was led by the high court's liberal voices. Ninety-three congressmen thus far have co-sponsored the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005—drafted by Republican F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., of Wisconsin—which

would forbid allocation of federal funds, many of which go to state and local municipalities for development incentives, to be used for any project employing eminent domain.

Both the House and Senate are considering nearly identical bills that would prevent funding, like the kind that has been committed in the form of tax exemptions and subsidized mortgages to Ratner for development of affordable housing units, from use for economic development. Only the House has had a hearing, before its Judiciary Committee.

"No state or any political subdivision of a state shall use economic development as a reason for exercising its power of eminent domain if federal funds would contribute in any way," the bill states, and further threatens to render any violating agency ineligible for federal funding.

The bill defines "economic development" as any activity "including increased tax revenue" that does not involve using the seized property for a "substantial part" for public use.

The bill could stifle federal funding for local and state development corporations seeking incentives such as tax breaks, tax abatements, subsidies and initiatives if those entities put forth projects that required the condemnation of private land.

As reported by The Brooklyn Papers following a May 19 commitment between the city and Ratner in a Memorandum of Understanding, officials from the Housing Development Corporation, a city housing fund that finances development projects, committed \$67.5 million in subsidies. An article this week in the New

York Sun estimated as much as \$76 million in taxpayer-funded subsidies.

The Housing Development Corporation (HDC) would be offering Ratner 1-percent tax-exempt mortgages for the construction of the project's moderate-income units, financing up to \$45,000 a unit to subsidize their construction, said HPD's commissioner, Shaun Donovan.

Forest City Ratner did not return calls seeking comment for this article.

At the Judiciary Committee's June 30 hearing, Sensenbrenner, the bill's sponsor, said that "any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party."

"Government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result," Sensenbrenner said.

"American taxpayers should not be forced to contribute in any way to the abuse of government power," he said before asking members to co-sponsor the bill to "assure the American people that we will not allow churches, homes, farms and other private property to be bulldozed in abusive land grabs that solely benefit private individuals whose only claim to that land is that their greater wealth will increase tax revenues."

Karen Johnson, a spokeswoman for Brooklyn Rep. Edolphus Towns, said that although the Democrat was opposed to the Supreme Court's ruling, he hadn't yet looked at the bill.

"He didn't like what the Supreme Court justices did," Johnson said, but mentioned the affinity of Sensenbrenner to rat fighting causes, and feared the bill might have ulterior motives. "There might be better bills that will be drafted [for the same ilk]," she added.

Rep. Vito Fossella, a Bay Ridge-States Island Republican who thus far is the lone member of New York City's congressional delegation to co-sponsor the bill, this week told The Brooklyn Papers, "What the Supreme Court took away in our Constitutional rights, the Congress must now restore."

We must slam the brakes on any attempt by government to seize our homes and small businesses for private developers to build hotels, supermarkets or office buildings."

Neither Rep. Nydia Velázquez nor Rep. Major Owens

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## Scoping Meetings

### Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Impact Statement (AA/EIS) Improved Access Between Lower Manhattan, Jamaica Station and JFK International Airport

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the lead agency, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and supported by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) is preparing a Notice of Intent to advise the public that the FTA intends to prepare an AA/EIS to evaluate alternatives that provide improved access and transit between Lower Manhattan, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Jamaica Station in Queens, and JFK International Airport.

**Project Area:**  
The project area is roughly defined by a fourteen mile travel corridor between the transportation hubs of Lower Manhattan, the Jamaica LIRR/JFK complex in Queens and John F. Kennedy International Airport. This area is served by the Long Island Rail Road Atlantic Branch, the Atlantic Avenue arterial road, and the NYC Fulton Street Subway line (F). Intermediate communities between the eastern and western hubs include the Downtown Brooklyn Business District, Fort Greene, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, Woodhaven, Crown Heights and Howard Beach. In addition, commuters from communities in Eastern Queens, and Nassau and Suffolk Counties travel through the Jamaica hub on their way to Downtown Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan.

FTA, MTA, PANYNJ, and LMDC seek public input on the scope of the EIS for this project, including the alternatives to be considered and the environmental and community impacts to be evaluated, considering all feasible rail and non-rail transportation alternatives that will improve travel in the corridor.

The EIS is being prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and applicable implementing regulations to ensure that the EIS and the environmental review process satisfy the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), as may be applicable.

The EIS will evaluate a No Action Alternative, one or more Build Alternatives, and any additional alternatives generated by the scoping process through meetings and correspondence with interested parties, groups, and government agencies.

**Date, Time & Location of the Meetings:**  
**Monday, July 18, 2005, starting at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.**  
Poster Board Session starting at 2 p.m.  
2 Broadway, 9th Conference Rm., Manhattan (Broadway & Bowling Green)  
**Directions:** ① Subway to Bowling Green; ② Subway to South Ferry; ③ Subway to Whitehall Street; M1 or M6 Bus

**Tuesday, July 19, 2005, starting at 6 p.m.**  
Poster Board Session starting at 4 p.m.  
280 Jordan Street, Brooklyn  
**Directions:** ① Subway to Jay Street Borough Hall; ② Subway to Borough Hall, B25, B31, B37, B54, B57, B61, B65, B67, B70 or B78

**Wednesday, July 20, 2005, starting at 6 p.m.**  
Poster Board Session starting at 4 p.m.  
94-20 Guy Brewer Boulevard, (Astoria) Jamaica, Queens  
**Directions:** ① Center Bus Rapid Transit to Jamaica Center-Parsons/Archer; ② 45, 66, 68, 69, Q2A/B, Q24, Q30, Q31, Q41, Q42, Q44, Q45, Q56, Q63, Q84, Q85, Q111, Q112, or Q113 bus, LIRR to Jamaica Station

Registration to speak at each meeting will close at 7 p.m., and comments will be recorded by a stenographer, or submit written comments or emails for the record.

Additional public involvement opportunities and project information will be announced via the MTA website [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) (click "Inside the MTA," then "Planning Studies," and "Lower Manhattan-Jamaica/JFK Link"). Written comments on the scope of the AA/EIS should be sent to Mr. Chris Bastian, MTA Project Manager, 347 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017, or call (212) 259-8268, or submit to the MTA website [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) select "Contact Us" then "E-Mail".

To register in advance to speak at the meetings, contact: Douglas Sussman, Director, MTA Community Affairs, (212) 678-7463.

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority**







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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 16, 2005

# Send in the clones

Park Sloper Steve Buscemi stars in summer actioner "The Island"

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Seven years after he helped protect humanity from a killer asteroid in "Armageddon," actor Steve Buscemi has reunited with director Michael Bay and costar Michael Clarke Duncan for another high-octane action flick, "The Island."

This time out, the celebrated character actor — a Park Slope resident — portrays McCord, a sympathetic worker in a futuristic institute that controls every aspect of people's lives in the name of science.

Buscemi's "Big Fish" co-star Ewan McGregor and his "Ghost World" cast-mate Scarlett Johansson play Lincoln Six-Echo and Jordan Two-Delta, residents who question their reality and plan a daring escape into an outside world they have never known. Duncan plays Starkweather, a former inhabitant whose fate reveals the sinister machinations of those controlling the facility: residents are actually clones created and kept alive solely to provide healthy replacement body parts for their original "sponsors."

"Steve is the man," Bay has said of Buscemi. "He literally was the part; it was totally geared for him. He brought humor to the role, which was great because he had a lot of exposure to get out, but Steve is the type of guy who can humanize anything. He is just one of the finest actors out there."

Well-known for his quirky, sometimes menacing turns in acclaimed independent films like "Fargo," "Reservoir Dogs" and "Living in Oblivion," Buscemi often lends credibility to big-budget blockbusters like "Con Air," "Armageddon" and, yes, "The Island," by his mere presence.

"I thought the script was good," said the 47-year-old, married father of a teenage boy. "I think there are going to be holes in any big, action-adventure story. It's a fantasy, but what was interesting to me was that it could be within the realm of possibility, which is frightening."

Although a well-regarded writer and director, as well as a beloved actor, the "Trees Lounge" and "Lonesome Jim" filmmaker said he has no problem working as an actor-for-hire and shutting off the part of his brain that tells him how he would shoot a scene.

"Certainly not on a film like 'The Island,' because I would feel like I'd be way in over my head as a director," he confided. "So, I'm really just absorbing what's going on, and as an actor who has directed, I think I just become more accommodating to the director, knowing that directors don't want a lot of people coming up to them and saying, 'Did you ever think of doing it this way?'"

Buscemi fans know that while the actor likes to mix things up a bit by working in small inde-



Organic matters: Steve Buscemi as McCord (left) with Ewan McGregor in a scene from Michael Bay's new sci-fi thriller, "The Island."

pendent films and larger Hollywood fare — both in front of and behind the camera, he also likes to collaborate with the same actors and directors more than once.

"The script is important and the dialogue, but also who's involved," he explained. "I like working with strong directors and the best cast you can get. In this case, it was a pretty easy decision."

It was also easy for Buscemi to decide to work with the Coen Brothers again after acting in their cult classics, "Fargo" and "The Big Lebowski."

"I just did a live radio play [Sawbones] that they wrote," said Buscemi. "We performed it at St. Ann's Warehouse in [DUMBO] and one night in London, and I also did a five-minute short film for them that we shot in Paris, which will be combined with a whole series of short films that these French financiers have asked — I don't know how many — directors to do. I think they're going to get that ready for Cannes."

Buscemi said all the films had the theme of romance in Paris. The one he worked on with the Coens was a three-character piece set in the Metro, and no, he sighed, he doesn't get to fall in love in this one either.

Next up for Buscemi is directing another episode of "The Sopranos," the hit HBO drama he also acted in for a season before being unceremoniously whisked by his own cousin, mob boss Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini). He refused to turn rat, however, despite all pleas from GO Brooklyn to divulge something — ANYTHING — about the upcoming season.

"No, I can't," he insisted. "I'm not allowed." So, given all of the characters he has played on-screen during the past 20 years, does Buscemi feel there is any one great role that has slipped through his grasp?

"I don't really think that way. I like to be surprised," he confided. "I feel like I have played a number of different parts, and I think that's probably why I want to direct more, because I feel like directing is more of a challenge and

something new."

Born in Brooklyn, Buscemi attended high school and college on Long Island. Though Hollywood has counted him for more than a decade, the down-to-earth actor-filmmaker said he prefers to live on the East Coast where it is easier to avoid the trappings of celebrity and live a normal life.

"For me, it helps not having the industry in my face all the time and that's why I do prefer living in New York, in Brooklyn, where it's even less. I don't know if it gives me an edge, but it gives me my sanity," laughed the former New York City firefighter who was arrested two years ago for protesting the closing of a Cobble Hill firehouse.

So, do fans bother him all the time?

"Not to the degree where it's out of hand," said Buscemi. "I've lived in the same neighborhood now for over 10 years. People know me, and they are used to me. I'm just the guy next door."

"The Island" opens in theaters July 22.

## FITNESS



## Make a splash

As the summer heats up, cool off for free at city beaches, open since May 28, and in city pools, which opened June 25.

And if you haven't been in recent years, some beaches have received a makeover. The Coney Island beach, for example, now has new cast-iron light poles, volleyball courts, comfort stations and performance pavilions.

In addition to the beach at Coney Island — between the Riegelmann Boardwalk and Atlantic Ocean, from West 37th Street to Ocean Parkway, one can swim at the adjacent Brighton Beach, from Ocean Parkway to West End Avenue, and the east-most beach on the strip, Manhattan Beach, located south of Oriental Boulevard from West End Avenue to Seawall Avenue. Activities at the various beaches include relaxing on the sand, of course, and canoeing, kayaking, tennis, basketball and swimming.

Beaches are open daily from 10 am to 6 pm until Labor Day.

The New York City Parks Department will offer a number of free swimming programs at city pools this summer. These include a "Learn to Swim" program for children that are new to the waters, a swim team tournament for more experienced children and teenagers, reserved lap swim times for adults, and other special activities for senior citizens.

The adult reserved lap times include the "Early Bird Program," which is from 7 am to 8:30 am at the Red Hook and Sunset Park pools from now through Aug. 12.

The "Learn to Swim" program divides children into two groups: ages 1 1/2 to 5 years and ages 6 to 14. The program aims to teach children basic swimming and water safety skills. This year, there's one three-week session left (July 26-Aug. 12); registration will be on site July 25, from 9:15 am–10:30 am.

There will also be times to swim on your own without lessons. With the summer heating up fast, take advantage of the outdoor pools in Brooklyn. These include the Commodore Barry Pool (in Commodore Barry Park, between Flushing and Park avenues, and Navy and North Elliot streets in Fort Greene), the Douglas and DeGraw Pool (Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill), the Red Hook Pool (Bay and Henry streets), and the Sunset Park Pool (Seventh Avenue between 41st and 44th streets), with the latter two being Olympic sized.

For more information go to [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks).  
—Taylor Watson

## MUSIC

## Tipton returns

When Chelsea Tipton II replaced conductor Robert Spano for the Brooklyn Philharmonic's final concert this season, a 50th anniversary all-Gershwin spectacular, the response from audiences and critics was overwhelmingly positive.

Now Tipton returns to lead the orchestra in its July 16 Prospect Park band shell performance as part of the Celebrate Brooklyn Festival, the 26th consecutive year that the borough's resident orchestra has participated in the summer music series.

The program gives those Philharmonic fans who missed his May debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music one more chance to hear Maestro Tipton lead the orchestra in more Gershwin tunes; the "An American in Paris" suite winds up the evening.

Also on the bill are Antonin Dvorak's "Carnival Overture," which opens the concert, and Jacques Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld," which precedes the Gershwin.

The program's main work is among the most beloved and frequently programmed of all violin concertos: Pjotr Tchaikovsky's 40-minute emotional blitzkrieg, often scooped at for its overzealous sentimentality, but there's no denying its showpiece status for orchestra and soloist.

Making her Brooklyn Philharmonic debut as Tchaikovsky soloist is 22-year-old violinist Tia Murray (pictured), who has dazzled audiences all season as a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center II. Murray's already-formidable technique, coupled with Tipton's newly created aura, should make for a memorable musical event.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic performs Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Offenbach and Gershwin on Saturday at 8 pm at the Prospect Park band shell. Enter the park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Admission is free, but there's a suggested \$3 donation for Celebrate Brooklyn. For further information, visit [www.celebratebrooklyn.org](http://www.celebratebrooklyn.org) or [www.brooklynphilharmonic.org](http://www.brooklynphilharmonic.org).

—Kevin Filipski

## Roofer's double life

On Tuesday, PBS airs the U.S. broadcast premiere of the positively chilling documentary, "The Brooklyn Connection," by Netherlands native Klaritje Quirjns.

The film's subtitle is "How to Build a Guerrilla Army."

The film is about a charismatic husband and father living in Bay Ridge, Florin Krasniq, who has successfully negotiated U.S. gun laws in order to create and supply a guerrilla army in Kosovo (a province of old Yugoslavia). According to the documentary, which is based in part on Stacy Sullivan's book "Be Not Afraid, For You Have Sons in America," this roofer has raised and spent \$30 million to arm and supply his "Kosovo Liberation Army."

In one scene, he and his family attend an event at Micali Terrace, on 86th Street. They look like any other glitzy, sequined Brooklyn clan heading off to a family affair — a Sweet 16 or engagement party perhaps?

No, it's a fundraiser for the KLA. Krasniq cheerfully escorts the film crew on visits to his suppliers, such as Sunset Park's Schwarzman army surplus warehouse, where he rolls a barrel shopping cart — filled with more than 100 military uniforms — down the aisle; and a gun dealer in Pennsylvania who seems to swallow Krasniq's story that he needs a sniper rifle to go elephant hunting (pictured at left).

Although Quirjns is heard asking the tough questions, several times off-camera, about the fatal consequences of his buying and smuggling the guns, she also captures Krasniq's gut-wrenching side of the story through interviews with him and footage of him in his Brooklyn home, which seems to be the American dream come true.

Although he's seen flipping meat on his barbecue and splashing around in his pool with his children, Krasniq is still very tied to his ancestral home in Kosovo, which has

been burned down several times in the last hundred years by Serbs.

After his cousin was killed attacking a Serb police station in 1997, he decided to help Kosovo's Albanians achieve their freedom more quickly, by starting an army.

The film raises tough questions about America's role in fueling overseas conflicts with our limited regulation of guns — and access to airplanes. In one disturbing segment, Krasniq said he was able to rent a cargo plane to move 25 tons of guns. "Brooklyn Connection" is evidence of both an enormous armed conflict about to erupt again in Kosovo (unless politicians move faster to negotiate a peace), and of the ease with which deadly weapons can be purchased in this country and turned on Americans at home and abroad.

POV presents "The Brooklyn Connection," July 19 at 10 pm on channel 13/WNET.  
—Lisa J. Curtis



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# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:  
**SMITH STREET**

### Baluchi's Indian Food

263 Smith St. at Degraw Street, (718) 797-0707  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$30.95

The chain of 17 Indian restaurants in Manhattan and Queens expanded into its third borough, Brooklyn, in January 2003. While owner Rakesh Aggarwal offers many vegetarian-friendly dishes including Bhatta (roasted eggplant cooked with onions and peas), the Baluchi's menu also offers chicken, lamb and seafood entrees. The Gosh shrimp curry, cooked with sautéed onion, lime juice, "secret spices" and fresh coconut milk, is one of dozens of mouthwatering choices.

The lunch special offers 50 percent off their in-house menu from noon to 3 p.m. daily, and also offers an appetizer and entree combo menu for \$12.95. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Bar Tabac

128 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 923-0918  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$17.95

Look for the vertical maroon-and-white sign of a motorcycle to find this French bistro offering a spacious dining room and bar area (big enough for a football table by the entrance). Brothers Georges and Jacques Forgois opened Bar Tabac with a dinner menu featuring shell stock, tuna steak, salmon, lamb shank and mussels. Top it off with one of their "diet boosters": creme brulee or flourless chocolate cake.

Open into the early morning hours, Bar Tabac is a haven for late-night noshers. They're open for lunch and brunch (Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) with a drink menu of refreshing tonics like the Mojito (grenadine, Sprite and beer) or Tonic (grenadine and beer). Enjoy live music during brunch as well as on Monday and Wednesday nights. Sidewalk seating available. Open daily.

### Caserta Vecchia

221 Smith St. at Baltic Street, (718) 624-7549  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$17.95

Local pizza joint Caserta Vecchia — named for the owners' ancestral home near Naples — offers authentic Southern Italian fare. In addition to their 20 different takes on brick-oven pizza, which range from the classic Margherita to the distinct and nontraditional Nutella and pasta. Caserta Vecchia also offers an Altkins-friendly menu with whole-wheat pizzas and pastas. The outdoor garden is now open for all fresco dining. Delivery and take-out available. Open Tuesday through Thursday for dinner and Friday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

### Coal

191 Smith St. at Warren Street, (347) 643-9911  
(AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$15

Chief Ignacio Murphy cooks a number of Irish and American dishes in Coal (pronounced KOL, pronounced like Smithwicks). Among the dishes on his menu are a New York steak with peppercorn sauce and pasta primavera. Their \$20 prix-fixe three-course supper menu changes daily and is available from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There's also a two-course, \$9 prix-fixe lunch menu, available Monday through Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., which has to be one of the best bargains in Brooklyn. Among the Irish dishes at Coal (classic for "music") are shepherd's pie, mixed grill and fish and chips. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Weekend brunch (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) with unlimited coffee is offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Delivery available. Garden seating available.

### Hana Cafe

235 Smith St. at Butler Street, (718) 441-1963 or (718) 443-1167, (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$15.95

Hana Cafe is for Japanese-food lovers. Teriyaki, noodle dishes and sushi are just some of the items on the menu. For \$12.95, Hana offers 12 dinner special combination boxes. In addition to the

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn**  
Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Diner's Club, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card



Chicken, steamed broccoli and peanut sauce at Tuk Tuk.

entree, each dinner box is served with rice, miso soup, green salad, three pieces of sushi, a California roll, and three pieces of "shumai" (Japanese-style shrimp dumplings). The list of special rolls on the menu is equally intriguing, check out the "Godzilla," "Spicy Boy," "Spicy Girl" and "Rock 'n' Roll." Their new, all-you-can-eat prix fixe is \$20.95 per person, and it's available all day, every day, sidewalk seating available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Patois

255 Smith St. at Douglas Street, (718) 855-1535, www.patoisrestaurant.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$19

This pioneering French bistro begun by Alan Harding and brothers Paul and Jim Manary sparked the Smith Street restaurant revolution when it opened in December 1997. One wall is even papered in French newspaper clippings. Two dining rooms offer patrons a feeling of intimacy and eliminate long lines for a table. Chef Charles Statekman's signature dishes include garlic snails with puff pastry, steak frites au poivre and grilled Atlantic salmon with sherry mustard, a lentil salad and roasted mushrooms. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, a \$20 prix fixe dinner is served all night long. For a romantic evening, request a table by the fireplace.

Garden dining is available in season. Patois also has vegetarian offerings and Sunday brunch (with unlimited mimosa, virgin Bloody Mary's and coffee). Closed Mondays.

### Restaurant Saul

140 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 935-9844 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$26-\$30

Named after its chef, Saul Bolton, this restaurant's creative menu features tempting appetizers such as the spicy chilled cucumber soup with a side of peytoezy crab. Entrees include pan-roasted NYman Ranch pork loin; roasted organic California seabird with Jerusalem artichoke puree and spicy cherry. Desserts include a warm apple brown Betty with prune and Amarraghi ice cream and a pine nut tart with rosemary-scented chestnut honey ice cream. Dinner served daily.

### Sonny's Bar & Grill

305 Smith St. at Union Street, (718) 643-3293 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$23

Sonny's Bar & Grill opened on the Carroll Gardens stretch of Smith Street in February 2004. The restaurant offers simple, familiar dishes in an unpretentious, Mason-style dining room. Among the appetizers, there are fried calamari and chicken wings. For entrees, GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Henry found the meal "hearty perfect." The writers of its therapeutic properties: "On an evening when the world is hard to bear, this dish will soothe you." Outdoor dining on the front patio is available in season. Delivery, catering and private parties available. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Kids' menu is available.

### Tuk Tuk

204 Smith St. at Baltic Street, (718) 222-5598 (Cash only) Entrees: \$8-\$14

Tuk Tuk, owned by Tassanee Boonmongkol, serves up authentic Thai food. The cozy restaurant, which seats about 45 people, is named for the ubiquitous three-wheeled vehicle in Thailand — akin to a taxi — which makes a "tuk tuk tuk" sound. Tuk Tuk also offers wines and imported beers. Signature dishes include the curries and "dickalcoholic," a "che's favorite" selection of curries baked back with a chili-basil sauce. Delivery available. Tuk Tuk has live music, usually jazz, on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpapers.com](http://www.brooklynpapers.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com).



# Hot plates

## Catering biz serves Backstreet Boys and other celebs from Carroll Gardens' back streets

By Ajla Grozdanic  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**Y**ou know you've succeeded in the catering business when the rich and famous are feasting on your specialties.

So when Backstreet Boys Nick Carter asked for more tuxedo chicken — fried chicken nuggets covered in black and white sesame seeds and served with honey mustard sauce — Bruce Kessler, owner of Brooklyn-based Julienne Catering company, knew he had created a hit menu for the boy band's June 14 "Never Gone" record release party.

Famous clients, like the Backstreet

The bright-blue swing chair is a crowd favorite.

"Mothers with newborns love it," said Kessler of the vintage metal swing, which, he said, he found three blocks away.

The mismatched, worn-out tables and chairs, and the blue carpet underneath, are put together in a way that gives the bright and sunny patio a trendy, artsy vibe that's cozy, too.

"I want to have a SoHo feel and bring it to Brooklyn while maintaining a neighborhood atmosphere," said the owner.

Things weren't always so bright and sunny for Kessler. His catering business, which was once located blocks

## DINING

**Julienne Catering** (543 Clinton St. at Nelson Street in Carroll Gardens) is open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sidewalk seating. To order, call (718) 935-1161. Catering menu prices range between \$18 and \$28 per person for hors d'oeuvres, depending on number of guests and items selected. Buffet dinner starts at \$29 per guest and includes an entree, side, salad and dessert. For more information visit [www.julienne catering.com](http://www.julienne catering.com). For special events planning call (212) 334-5454.

Upon receiving long-awaited government aid, Kessler moved CEO to 580 Broadway in SoHo before opening the Brooklyn-based, 6-year-old CEO (Catering and Entertainment Organization).

Group, Julienne's bread-and-butter comes from catering three or four times a week at various types of venues, particularly A-list parties and concerts. Past events have included parties for model-actress Grace Jones and pop group the Black Eyed Peas, among many others.

It's hard to start a business in a residential neighborhood," Kessler told GO Brooklyn. "The core of my business is corporate entertainment."

Although Julienne is nestled in Carroll Gardens, amid rows of brick townhouses, its bright orange-and-blue color scheme, peeking out from the corner of Clinton and Nelson streets, gives it away. The colorful sign and awning let you know that you have arrived at the right place — not just somebody's cheerfully decorated front yard.

But in addition to being a catering company, Kessler's new Clinton Street outpost is also a cafe in the making. At the moment, there's no indoor seating, but the restaurant's front patio, which can separate in 10 guests, is open to the public during the summer months.

World Trade Center, lost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in the year following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Kessler estimated.

He named his catering company and cafe after his girlfriend's 7-year-old son, Julien. He modified the name into a French culinary term by attaching the "ne" at the end. (To julienne vegetables is to slice them into small sticks.)

Relaxing in Julienne's front garden with soothing jazz tunes in the background — Kessler's current music of choice — while nibbling on a fresh salad or a tasty sandwich, makes for a perfect way to spend a lazy summer afternoon. And every Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., a jazz guitarist, Shogo Kubo, provides live entertainment.

Kessler chose to focus on serving foods he loves: Julienne's menu consists primarily of bistro food with a touch of Asian and Latin flavor. He says that although he's not labeling his cafe a health food place, his products are made from fresh ingredients.

"Fresh Food... Fast!" is the company's motto.

In addition to breakfast basics like croissants, hot oatmeal and a range of omelets, Julienne offers soups, ciu-



Summer pleasures: (Above left) The kitschy exterior, with some seating, of Julienne Catering at 543 Clinton St. (Above) Julienne's smoked turkey panini with jalapeno jack cheese, baby arugula and mango salsa (foreground) and gazpacho soup.

batta bread sandwiches, paninis, quesadillas, and specialties like the chorizo in puff pastry with Dijon mustard or chicken piccata (cubed chicken lightly fried with sliced almonds) and served with honey mustard. And let's not forget sweets, such as mini cheesecakes or Julienne's favorite, freshly baked cookies.

For their catering events, Julienne has a special menu featuring a vast selection of hors d'oeuvres that includes barbecue chicken with crumpled Stilton in blue-cream shells, smoked turkey, hummus-stuffed mini pitas, sweet potato fritters with creme fraiche and, that Backstreet Boy favorite, tuxedo chicken.

The buffet dinner menu offers grilled chicken served three different ways. It can be prepared with pesto cream, portobello mushrooms and white asparagus or Provencal-style with tomatoes, olives and capers. Cajun-style grilled chicken with crisp shallots and peppercorn cream is also an option.

The menu is sweetened with cream puffs, Napoleons, eclairs and other finger pastries, along with strawberry, blueberry- and chocolate-swirl mini cheesecakes, chocolate and walnut brownies and cookies with chocolate chips, peanut butter chunks, oatmeal and raisins, or macadamia nuts.

Said the Boerum Hill resident, "I'm committed to Brooklyn, because my roots are here."

services earlier in the day at an event sponsored by Teen People magazine in honor of the members of the band, which once claimed a fan base of hundreds of thousands of screaming teenagers. For the party celebrating the release of their comeback, "Never Gone," the Backstreet Boys' choice of hors d'oeuvres included spicy tuna, salmon and California sushi rolls, bite-size phyllo dough cups stuffed with portobello mushrooms, spinach and feta cheese, assorted bruschetta, vegetarian spring rolls and Florida crab cakes with sunshine aioli, made with lemon, ginger, garlic and a food coloring tint to give it the "sunshine" hue.

The dinner was served buffet-style and featured, among other things, grilled chicken and salmon.

But you don't have to be a star to eat like one in Brooklyn. If you can't manage to get a seat in the limited outdoor garden, Julienne's crew of five employees will prepare your food to go. Or get it delivered anywhere in Carroll Gardens or Red Hook. (Although Kessler mostly caters corporate parties and entertainment events — feeding an average of 300 mouths at a time, he makes deliveries to local residents for orders of \$10 or more.)

And come winter, he intends to turn the front patio into an enclosed, heated garden. Kessler's plans for the future include expanding the Julienne cafe and opening a restaurant and wine bar either at the same location or elsewhere in the neighborhood. But one thing is certain: Kessler wants to stay in Brooklyn.

Said the Boerum Hill resident, "I'm committed to Brooklyn, because my roots are here."

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# Coming home

Brooklyn-based Sackett Group is latest addition to Fort Greene's theater district

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Some dreams are worth the wait. Back in 1988, Dan Haft met Robert Weinstein while they were both working on the Heights Players' staging of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

"We've been best friends and partners ever since," says Haft.

About two years later, the two men founded a nonprofit, project-based theatrical company they named The Sackett Group, because at the time, they both lived on Sackett Street in Carroll Gardens. (Weinstein was a tenant of Haft, who owns a brownstone.)

Most of their projects were produced in Manhattan, but Haft, the group's producing director, says, "Our mission has always been to have a theater in Brooklyn, because we're from Brooklyn."

That dream began to look like a reality on Nov. 1, 2003, when Borough President Marty Markowitz came to a Sackett Group fundraiser.

"A couple of months later, we had a meeting with [Markowitz] and his aides where we expressed the desire to establish a permanent home in Brooklyn," says Haft. "They suggested a couple of underutilized spaces in Brooklyn, among them the Brooklyn Music School [BMS Playhouse]."

Subsequently, Lie Koch, of the borough president's office, contacted Karen Krieger, executive director of the Brooklyn Music School, to lay the groundwork.

"Over the next 18 months, we met, we negotiated and the two boards ratified a collaboration agreement," says Haft. And this spring the Sackett Group announced its premiere season as the resident company at the BMS Playhouse at 126 St. Felix St. — in the heart of the BAM Cultural District.

"The Sackett Group has a stage expertise that, hopefully, we can bring to our students at a later date," Krieger told GO Brooklyn. "So we can offer theater as part of our curriculum down the road."

Members of the Sackett Group have



Celebration time: The Sackett Group's Producing Director Rob Weinstein and Artist Director Dan Haft show off their new home in the Brooklyn Music School's Playhouse in Fort Greene.

already helped the Brooklyn Music School with lighting for its production of "A Brooklyn Nutcracker," staged last December, as well as the June dance recital.

Haft and Weinstein, the group's artistic director, plan to stage four productions, beginning with Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer" (which opened on July 14 and continues through Aug. 7). The three other productions this season are "Women's Work V," the Sackett Group's fifth festi-

## THEATER

The Sackett Group's production of "Suddenly Last Summer" continues through Aug. 7 at the BMS Playhouse at 126 St. Felix St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, at 8 p.m., and Sundays, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$19; a season subscription is \$65. For tickets, call (212) 668-4444. For more information, visit the Web site [www.sackettgroup.org](http://www.sackettgroup.org).

val of one-act plays, directed by six of the city's emerging female directors (Oct. 26-Nov. 20; Arthur Miller's little-known "The American Clock" [Jan. 26-Feb. 12]; and the world premiere of Joe Costanza's "One Big Happy Family" [April 27-May 21].

none of these stories are told in enough depth to be interesting, without huge amounts of background information brought to the plate by the members of the audience.

Performing against the backdrop of an American flag with baseballs substituting for stars, Boocock adds as much physicality as he can to a basically narrative show. He dances, mimics and mimes. Burke has done an admirable job keeping him moving.

But Boocock is not a wonderful dancer, and his Ronald Reagan sometimes morphs into Dubya (although, proving all Republicans don't sound alike, he really nails it with Dick Cheney). And after the fifth time Boocock pretends he's up at bat and swings at an invisible ball, the novelty (if there ever was any) wears thin.

When Boocock tries to equate baseball with politics, the analogies are mostly verbal. "Shock and awe won't work in baseball," he says and later talks about an "Enron Stadium." He describes baseball as an "advanced form of democracy and democracy as a team sport."

Was Rose's passion for gambling really a way of being patriotic? Did Strawberry's substance abuse problem have anything to do with racism or

the fact that Ty Cobb was a member of the Ku Klux Klan? Can we really blame the Yankees' failure to win the World Series in the past few years on the president?

When we really love something or someone we tend to see the world as centered on the ob-

## THEATER

"Boocock's House of Baseball" plays through July 23, Thursday through Sunday, at 8 p.m. at The Flea Theater (41 White St. between Broadway and Church Street in Manhattan). Tickets are \$15. For tickets, call Theater Maria at (212) 352-3101 or visit [www.theatermaria.com](http://www.theatermaria.com).

ject of our affections. That's why amorous people are sometimes called "lovesick." Clearly Boocock loves baseball. But is it fair to ask an audience of strangers to share his obsession?

Monologues are strenuous undertakings. Solo performers succeed on the strength of their personalities or the personalities they create. Boocock reveals nothing of interest about himself, except that he has a love-hate relationship with baseball and a hate-hate relationship with George W. Bush and his administration. Nor does he tell the audience anything truly compelling about either players or politicians.

An hour of "Boocock's House of Baseball" felt like a game that went into too many extra innings.

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# Odd man out

It's swing and a miss for Sloper's baseball and politics one-man show

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

People who love baseball and hate George W. Bush may find much of interest in Paul Boocock's "Boocock's House of Baseball" at The Flea Theater in SoHo — but there's not much else to recommend the one-man show.

This is the Park Slope actor's second political piece and his second collaboration with director Mary Catherine Burke. Their first show, "Boocock-VIP," also used some baseball material, but it was mostly political commentary. "Boocock-VIP" focused on how much better it is to be vice president than president because the VP gets all the glory and none of the blame.

"Boocock's House of Baseball" is all about what used to be America's favorite pastime (until basketball and football came along) and what's become of it at the hands of greedy owners and troubled players. But



Paul Boocock stars in "Boocock's House of Baseball," on stage at The Flea Theater in Manhattan through July 23.

there's something forced about the way Boocock insists on seeing current events through the prism of the game.

One can't help but think he could just as easily have made analogies with the game of chess (the battles, the maneuvers, the royalty and the pawns, the settling of old grudges when the pawns make

it to the other side) or "ring-around-the-rosy" (the triumph of fate when they all fall down).

Boocock's monologue includes the stories of Babe Ruth, Reggie Jackson, Darryl Strawberry, Doc Gooden, Pete Rose and many more. He covers drug use, illegal gambling, racism and other issues. But

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Pedro Moran has a 15-year background in the Cal-Mex food scene in New York City. He owned Healthy Henrietta's, a macrobiotic burrito joint on Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, as well as Mission Burnitos in the East Village.

Now he's cooking up a storm in Sunset Park, and the eating's as good as the price is low. Moran moved Taqueria DF to its larger, current quarters near Park Slope about seven months ago, and now has plenty of room to accommodate both his thriving takeout business and those wanting a sit-down meal.

With large windows that open onto the street and lots of lively, colorful Mexican decorations, Taqueria DF is a comfortable, casual hang-out where you can easily afford to eat several times a week.

Weekend brunch starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. You have more than 10 dishes to choose from, such as cheese omelets, egg burritos and juicy rotisserie chicken. Marinated for 24 hours in whole Mexican herbs, then slowly roasted, the mild chicken is a thrifty \$7.50. Add \$1.50 for beans and rice, and you've got the perfect dinner for two — for under \$10.

A fantastic summer refresher is the avocado salad. Mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers and chunks of soft, sweet avocado are drizzled with a vinaigrette of lemon juice, parsley and garlic. At \$5, enjoy it every day the temperature goes above 80 degrees.

Hailing from his macrobiotic roots, Moran offers diners his unique "Soyla Burrito" (\$6.50), which features soy gluten in place of meat.



Taqueria DF restaurant waitress Mari Vasquez with the beef fajitas and the avocado salad.

"Tastes pretty much like steak, although we have fun with the seasonings and sauces, and can even make it seem like chicken," explains Moran, adding, "Gluten is very versatile stuff."

A juice bar complements the many vegetarian dishes on the menu, like the vegetarian chili and cactus burrito, both \$6.50. Non-dairy "sour cream," made from tofu, is the perfect topping. But carnivores have much to be excited about here, too!

In your enchiladas and quesadillas, choose from spicy pork, sausage and even goat meat (touted as the "new" meat in a recent New York Times dining section cover story), along with more than varieties of beef and chicken.

Top your meal off with creamy homemade flan (\$3) or luscious tiramisu (\$3.50). One thing you'll be certain of, after trying a meal at Taqueria DF, is you'll certainly be back for lots more.

Taqueria DF is at 709 Fifth Ave. at 22nd Street. Open daily, Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight. Visit the Web site at [www.taqueriadf.com](http://www.taqueriadf.com) for the menu, American Express, MasterCard and Visa accepted. Liquor license pending; meantime, bring your own beer or wine. For more information, call (718) 499-2969 or (718) 499-4646.

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# Here to G

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

## SAT, JULY 16

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BOAT TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical Society takes a tour of Brooklyn's working waterfront. \$20, \$18 members. Boat departs at 11:05 am from Fulton Ferry Landing. (212) 742-1969.

**GOWANUS DREDGERS:** hosts a party on the shoreline that features oyster demonstrations, guided canoe tours and more. Noon to 5 pm. Also, outdoor film screening of several films divers on. (718) 243-0849. Free.

**TWILIGHT WALK:** Big Ocean Tours takes a stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15, \$12 seniors and \$10 students. 5 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

**MOONLIGHT TOUR:** Green-Wood Cemetery hosts a tour and site-specific performances by Brooklyn artists. Directed by Martha Bowers. Dance/Theater/Electrics \$15, \$10 for Historic Fund members. 8:15 pm. 228 Street and Fifth Avenue. (631) 549-4891.

**PERFORMANCE**  
**CELEBRATE BROOKLYN:** Summer performing arts festival presents Brooklyn Philharmonic: "They Came, They Conquered." Program features works by four composers who had a significant impact on the city: violinist, Tai Murray performs, \$3 suggested donation. 8 pm. Prospect Park Band shell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7682. Free.

**SIREN MUSIC FEST:** The Village Voice presents a five-day, all-ages, outdoor music festival featuring live international, national and local bands. Noon to 9 pm. Coney Island. Call for info. (212) 633-3333. Free. www.voice.com/siren.

**OUTDOOR DANCE:** Silver-Brown Dance Company performs in Brooklyn Bridge Park. 8 pm. www.brooklynbridgepark.org (718) 602-0603, ext. 17. Free.

**CIRCUS:** Cole Bros. Circus presents Super-Heroes of the Circus. \$15, \$10 children 12 and under and seating 2-9 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm. Marine Park, Avenue U West of Flatbush Avenue. (800) 776-5672.

**DANCE:** Three Boston choreographers perform at Trilokian Arts Center. Hastinger Dance Company performs July 16 guest artist Ellen Singsper. Program consists of five dances. \$15. 8 pm. Trilokian Arts, 118 N. 11th St. (718) 965-1569.

**YOGA:** Guest teacher Wade Innes Morissette of Lullawellum Atlanta teaches a class. Live music. All levels welcome. \$25, 10 am to noon. Noonside Yoga, 118 Washington St. (718) 624-5523.

## SWING MUSIC

Kingsborough Community College Swing Band plays music from the 30s, 40s and 50s. 8 pm. 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 368-5000. Free.

**PLAY:** The Sackett Group presents its premiere season as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse. Production: Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." \$19. 8 pm. 126 St. Felix St. For tickets, call (212) 868-4444. For more information, visit www.sackettgroup.org.

**LIVE MUSIC:** Green-Wood Cemetery hosts a monthly music series featuring country, inspired music. Last Town Chorus performs. \$12. 8 pm. 228 Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 857-4816.

## CHILDREN

**PUPPETWORKS:** presents around the World in 80 Days... \$5 for children. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 338 South Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 962-1700. Free.

**TRANSIT MUSEUM:** kids, ages 4 to 16, are invited to learn about the retired Red Bird subway car and to learn about the Ocean to form artificial reefs. \$5, \$3 children. 12:30 pm. 280 Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 857-4816.

**ARTY FACTS:** Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Stories Art" series. Today: What if You Could Fly? \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors. Free today. 4 to 6 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

## OTHER

**CALLING ALL BRIDES:** Visit Michael C. For a beautiful in Bay Ridge for a bridal event. Get tips on entertaining, wedding vendors, and more & match table settings. Games, cocktails, cake and more. 8 pm. 831 81th Avenue. (866) 893-3462. www.michaelcna.com. Free.

**Center hosts a panel discussion on grants for individual artists.** Noon to 2 pm and 5:30 pm to 5:50 pm. 200 Washington St. (718) 694-0831. Free.

**EARTH ART SHOW:** Brooklyn Waterfront Arts Center hosts a show featuring the intrigue in the natural world. 4 to 6 pm. Van Brunt St. (718) 596-5607. Free.

**BAM CINEMATHEQUE:** presents "Ed Wood" (1994). \$10, \$7 students, \$6 members. 2 pm, 4:30 pm, 7 pm, 9:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**READING SERIES:** Brooklyn Library, Cadman Plaza West branch, presents the mother-daughter drama "Those Who Searched." 7 pm. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-1700. Free.

**BOOK SIGNING:** John Barnes reads and signs his book: "John F. Kennedy and the Secret Service." 7 pm. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-1700. Free.

**ARTISTS' OPPORTUNITY DUMBO ARTS:** presents "A Fish Called Wanda" at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park on July 21.

**TOUR:** Mauricio Leone hosts a tour around downtown Brooklyn. Tour includes a stop to listen to gospel music. \$25. 10 am to 1 pm. Meet at Brooklyn Museum. (718) 623-1700.

**BRIDGE THEATER:** presents "The Bridge" (The Bridge Changes Here) by Michael Ondaatje. \$10. 8 pm. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-1700. Free.

**CIRCUS:** Cole Bros. Circus presents Super-Heroes of the Circus. \$15, \$10 children 12 and under and seating 2-9 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm. Marine Park, Avenue U West of Flatbush Avenue. (800) 776-5672.

**DANCE:** Three Boston choreographers perform at Trilokian Arts Center. Hastinger Dance Company performs July 16 guest artist Ellen Singsper. Program consists of five dances. \$15. 8 pm. Trilokian Arts, 118 N. 11th St. (718) 965-1569.

**YOGA:** Guest teacher Wade Innes Morissette of Lullawellum Atlanta teaches a class. Live music. All levels welcome. \$25, 10 am to noon. Noonside Yoga, 118 Washington St. (718) 624-5523.

**PLAY BALL:** Brooklyn Cyclones play against Auburn. \$5 general admission, \$10 box seats. 7 pm. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1000.

**MOVIES ON A ROOF:** Rooftop Films presents "Lost at Sea" film program on Governors Island. \$6. Live music by Lost Ticks at 8 pm. Films begin at 8:30 pm. Ferries leave from Slip 7 at the Battery Maritime Building across from Broad Street in Lower Manhattan. Adjacent to the Staten Island/Whitehall Ferry Terminal. Reservations suggested. (718) 417-7362. www.rooftopfilms.com.

## Sun, July 17

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**CRUISING THE GOWANUS:** Brooklyn Historical Society offers a tour of the Gowanus Canal. Learn about the environment, history and industrial architecture. \$45, \$35 members. 9:30 am. Meet at foot of Old Fulton Street, opposite the River Cafe. Pre-registration necessary. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

**UP TO THE FORT:** Friends of the Parks hosts a tour of Fort Greene Park. Includes a stop to listen to gospel music. \$25. 10 am to 1 pm. Meet at corner of Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. (718) 623-1700.

## PERFORMANCE

**GOSPEL MUSIC:** Micah Stempley and his wife Heidi sing. Powerful Praise All Stars. 7:08 Myrtle Ave. between Spencer and Wallworth streets. Call (718) 962-1700.

**TOUR:** Mauricio Leone hosts a tour around downtown Brooklyn. Tour includes a stop to listen to gospel music. \$25. 10 am to 1 pm. Meet at Brooklyn Museum. (718) 623-1700.

**BRIDGE THEATER:** presents "The Bridge" (The Bridge Changes Here) by Michael Ondaatje. \$10. 8 pm. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-1700. Free.

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buses. \$5 kids 17 and younger. 1 pm. Boerum Place and Schemmhorn Street. (718) 694-1873.

## OTHER

**INDOOR PLANTS:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a workshop on fragrant plants. Learn which plants to look and smell – good. \$39, \$35 members. 10 am to 1 pm. 1090 1st Avenue. (718) 623-1700.

**ARTISTS' OPPORTUNITY DUMBO ARTS:** Center hosts a panel discussion on grants for individual artists. Noon to 2 pm and 5:30 pm to 5:50 pm. 200 Washington St. (718) 694-0831. Free.

**WATERFRONT EATS AND ART:** Sample food, drinks and art from merchants of zip code 11231. Live entertainment. Noon to 7 pm. Union Street between Columbia and Hicks streets. (718) 624-9107.

**BAM CINEMATHEQUE:** presents "Arizona Dream" (1993). \$10, \$7 students, \$6 members. 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**PLAY BALL:** Brooklyn Cyclones play against Auburn. \$5 general admission, \$10 box seats. 7 pm. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1000.

**SPOKEN WORD:** Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a reading. 6 pm to 8 pm. 300 3rd St. (718) 623-2310. Free.

## Mon, July 18

**PLAY BALL:** Brooklyn Cyclones play against Auburn. \$5 general admission, \$10 box seats. Noon. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1000.

**CONCERT:** 23rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series. A Night of Pure Funk with Ohio Players, Cameo and Slave. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field, Winthrop Street, between Brooklyn and Kings avenues. (718) 469-1912. www.brooklynconcerts.com.

**LECTURE SERIES:** David Berg Series with Rabbi Aaron Raskin. "My Year of the 'Kabbalah of the 10 Commandments.'" 7:30 pm. 117 Raritan St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

## TUES, JULY 19

**BUSINESS WORKSHOP:** Church Avenue Merchants Bank Association hosts a talk, "Credit as a Tool." Continued on page 13...

## LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 424, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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**BAM Cafe**  
30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

**Barbes**  
375 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9177. www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

**Bembo**  
81 St. 3rd St. in Williamsburg. (718) 387-5387. www.bembos.com.

**Black Betty**  
366 Metropolitan Ave. at Bedford Street in Williamsburg. (718) 599-0243. www.blackbetty.com.

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403 Lewis Ave. at Decatur Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 771-0653. www.breadstuy.com.

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147 Greenpoint Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint. (718) 349-6969. www.clubexit.com.

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**Greenwood Cemetery**  
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370 Lewis Ave. at Hobart Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 443-4580.

**IO Restaurant**  
171 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 388-3200. www.iorestaurant.com.

**Fuzz 966**  
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**The Jazz Spot**  
179 Marzani Garvey Blvd. at Kew-Forest Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 453-7825. www.thejazzspot.com.

**Keyspan Park**  
371 Avenue M at West 14th Street in Coney Island. (203) 544-5875. www.bigsimmer.com.

**Kill Bar-Cafe**  
418 Horley Ave. at Bedford Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 855-5574.

**Liberty Heights Tap Room**  
983 Flushing Ave. at Central Avenue in Bushwick. (718) 368-1133. www.libertyheightstaproom.com.

**Life Cafe 983**  
983 Flushing Ave. at Central Avenue in Bushwick. (718) 368-1133. www.lifebar.com.

**Lille's**  
46 Beard St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook. (718) 858-8822.

**The Lucky Cat**  
371 Avenue M at West 14th Street in Coney Island. (203) 544-5875. www.bigsimmer.com.

**Madagascar**  
371 Avenue M at West 14th Street in Coney Island. (203) 544-5875. www.bigsimmer.com.

**Magnetic Field**  
97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 834-0269. www.magneticfield.com.

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**Medgar Evers College**  
1600 Bedford Ave. at Crown Street in Crown Heights. (718) 797-1972.

**M Shanghai Bistro & Den**  
405 Avenue D at Grand Street in Williamsburg. (718) 384-0000. www.mshanghaibistro.com.

**National Restaurant**  
272 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach. (718) 464-1225. www.nationalrestaurant.com.

**Night of the Cookers**  
767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene. (718) 797-1972.

**Northrix**  
66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 599-5103. www.northrix.com.

**Peggy O'Neills**  
1121 11th St. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 748-1000. www.peggyosneills.com.

**Pete's Candy Store**  
709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 302-0733. www.petes-candy.com.

**Rock 'n' Roll DJ Exchange**  
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# Engagement & Wedding Announcements

## ENGAGEMENTS

### Cass - Catton

Christina Elizabeth Cass, of Park Slope, and James Robert Catton, of Surrey, England, plan to be married on Sept. 4, 2005, in New Canaan, Conn., at the St. Aloysius Catholic Church. Monsignor Scheidel and Father Rutin will officiate.

The bride-to-be is a self-employed producer and director, and is the daughter of Laurence and Helen Cass of Stamford, Conn. She attended Stamford High School and Fordham University.

The groom-to-be is an entertainment manager and is the son of Charlotte and the late Eric Catton.

### How did you meet?

The bride says: "We met on a cruise around South America. He was assistant cruise director, and I was traveling with my family. I thought he was a total jerk at first, but once I heard his music (he's a composer) I figured, 'England, no way a total jerk could write such magnificent, sensitive music...' I was hooked."

"Since he was at sea, on a cruise ship, it was very difficult to get together. We called and wrote a lot of letters. The only times we got to see each other for the next eight or nine months was



when his cruise ship was docked in Manhattan. He couldn't go off the ship due to immigration issues, and I couldn't go onto his ship to visit him.

"So I'd go to the Intrepid, which was docked right next to his ship, and we'd have conversations from 20 feet!"

### Who proposed, and how?

The bride says: "About one year after we met, James proposed to me while dancing at the 150-year-old Blackpool Ballroom, in Blackpool, England. We were doing a Spike Lee sort of spin while we were dancing, and James asked me if I would marry him. He had to repeat it three times, because although I've never been at a loss for words, I was then 'Took me completely by surprise. Finally, he said, 'Maybe now's not the right time.'"

"Three weeks later he asked again on

bended knee, and I was able to utter (at last) an appropriate answer! It turns out he had bought the ring months earlier, because he was so sure about us. We met in March 2003, and he proposed in June 2004."

## WEDDINGS

### Fong - Egozi

Samantia A. Fong, 35, and Alon Egozi, 39, who reside in Park Slope, were married on June 4 in Katonah, N.Y.

The bride is the daughter of Richard and Sema Fong, of River Edge, N.J., where she grew up. She attended River Dell High School, as well as Villanova University and Rutgers Law School. She is currently employed by the Hodgson Russ law firm.

The groom is the son of Lily and the late Raphael Egozi, of West Orange, N.J. He attended Mountain High School and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and is currently employed as a project engineer for a bridge painting business.

The couple met at a mutual friend's birthday party in the fall of November 2001 and became engaged in July 2004.

### Lovely wedding

The bride says: "It was a beautiful garden wedding held at an outdoor concert location called Caramoor, in Ka-



tonah. Japanese lanterns lit the way and the atmosphere was filled with the smell of fragrant peonies and irises. Both the ceremony and reception were held outdoors in the sunken garden under a big tent. The guests danced, drank and ate under the stars."

### Who proposed, and how?

The bride says: "Alon proposed at the foot of the lighthouse at Robert Moses State Park during a vacation to Fire Island. He said, 'Let's not tell anyone — keep it just between us.' I agreed. But the moment we got home, he started telling everyone."

Visit [www.TheBrooklynBride.com](http://www.TheBrooklynBride.com) to submit your wedding or engagement announcement. Announcements are run on a space available basis. Our next issue is Aug. 13.

## And the winner is...

Dyker Heights couple wins our 7-day cruise

The winners of The Brooklyn Bride June cruise giveaway, sponsored by Michael C. Fina, are Karen Dean and Michael Rizak, of Dyker Heights, who plan to be married on Oct. 27, 2006.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Robin and John Dean, who now live in New Jersey. Dean attended New Utrecht High School.

The groom-to-be is the son of Christine and Charlie Rizak, of Dyker Heights. He is a graduate of Bishop Ford High School and is employed by the city Department of Sanitation.

The couple started dating in April 2000, and were engaged in 2003.

### How did you meet?

Says Dean: "We were both working at the Gap on 86th Street and Fifth Avenue. He was going out with another girl, but I didn't think she was treating him very well. So I made my intentions known."

Says Rizak: "She was right!"

### Who proposed, and how?

Says Dean: "Well, I actually proposed to him. I had been on vacation visiting

relatives in Minnesota for two weeks. When I got back, he told me, he hadn't been able to sleep while I was gone. I decided to take advantage of all that sleep deprivation; I figured he can't say 'no,' he's just too tired!"

### Concerns about the wedding:

Says Rizak: "The expenses are one area of concern, and it's also tough agreeing on plans. I would like it to be a really memorable event, taking place in Scotland or Ireland. But our families are not big on traveling."

Says Dean: "Having it outdoors is really important to us both, especially with the autumn leaves looking so great that time of year. We're thinking about the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as a place."

The seven-day cruise-for-two will take Dean and Rizak to either the Caribbean or the Mexican Riviera, depending on the couple's preference.

To enter to win The Brooklyn Bride July 2005 seven-day cruise-for-two, sponsored by Michael C. Fina, fill out the form below, or visit our Web site at [www.TheBrooklynBride.com](http://www.TheBrooklynBride.com).



Michael Rizak and Karen Dean receive their cruise from Jeffrey Fina (at right), vice president of Michael C. Fina.

# Win a honeymoon

Enter The Brooklyn Bride contest to win a 7-night cruise for two to the Caribbean or Mexican Riviera, sponsored by MICHAEL C. FINA



On Carnival, Norwegian or Royal Caribbean Cruise lines. Packaged by Mini Vacations Inc.

## Contest open to engaged couples & couples married since Jan. 1. Enter by Aug. 3.

Mail to: July Contest, The Brooklyn Bride, c/o The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Ste 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED. AUG. 3.

Or enter online at [www.TheBrooklynBride.com](http://www.TheBrooklynBride.com). ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED. AUG. 3.

BRIDE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GROOM'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING DATE (between January 1, 2005 and December 2007): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND RELATION OF PERSON SUBMITTING ENTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ BRIDE ☐ GROOM ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTEST RULES

1) The winning entry will be chosen by members of The Brooklyn Papers staff designated by The Brooklyn Papers management from among eligible entries received by the contest deadline. The decision of The Brooklyn Papers judges is final.

2) No purchase necessary to enter or win. Contest information and rules are published in The Brooklyn Papers, which are free newspapers, and are online at [www.TheBrooklynBride.com](http://www.TheBrooklynBride.com). By submitting an entry, contest participants agree to be bound by all of the contest rules.

3) The deadline for all entries is Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2005. Entries submitted by mail must be in the office of The Brooklyn Papers, and entries submitted online must be received from the designated e-mail box, no later Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2005. The mailing address is: July Contest, The Brooklyn Bride, c/o The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Entries may not be personally delivered to the office of The Brooklyn Papers.

4) The Brooklyn Papers is not responsible for late, damaged or misdirected mail or courier deliveries or e-mails.

5) The winner will be notified by phone, e-mail or mail on or before Friday, Aug. 5, 2005.

6) The winner will have three (3) days after notification to claim the prize by completing, signing

and returning an Affidavit of Eligibility and a Publicity Release to the contest manager. Entries not so returned will be selected.

7) At a time scheduled by The Brooklyn Papers, the winner must pick up the cruise certificate at the office of The Brooklyn Papers and provide for a photograph that may be published by The Brooklyn Papers in any media. The photograph, and caption and any promotional information written by The Brooklyn Papers staff, editorial, pre-promotional and advertising use — at the sole discretion of The Brooklyn Papers.

8) In order for a winner to claim a prize, The Brooklyn Papers may require the winner to produce a valid Social Security number and photo identification (including at least one of the following: driver's license, state-issued photo ID or a current passport).

9) The contest is open to qualified entrants who are getting married by December 2007 or have been married since Jan. 1, 2005. The winner will be required to provide proof of marriage (copy of wedding certificate) or an affidavit affirming an engagement to be married.

10) All entries become the sole property of The Brooklyn Papers, which may publish the entries at any time in print, online or in any other media without additional permission and without compensation. Entries may be edited and used in any manner deemed

appropriate by The Brooklyn Papers.

11) Employees, vendors and family members of The Brooklyn Papers, Michael C. Fina and Mini Vacations Inc. are ineligible to win.

12) The Brooklyn Papers and Michael C. Fina are not responsible or liable in any way for any failure on the part of Mini Vacations Inc. to issue a Cruise certificate.

13) The winner will receive a certificate valid for a 7-night cruise for two adults (double occupancy required). Accommodations are an entry-level cabin. Upgrades to outstanding ocean views or balconies are available for a surcharge.

14) To be eligible for this offer, passengers must be 21 years of age or older with a valid identification and a major credit card. United States travelers need proof of citizenship, including a valid Passport, and photo ID. Resident aliens need a valid Passport and valid U.S. Multiple Re-entry Visa; resident aliens and aliens must contact the appropriate consulate to inquire about necessary travel documentation.

15) To validate the cruise certificate, the winner must complete the registration validation form and return it via U.S. Mail prior to the activation date shown on the registration validation form. The cruise offer expires 18 months from the activation date and all travel must be completed by that date.

16) All reservation requirements in the cruise certificate must be met. A minimum of 90 days advance notice is required to process a reservation request. Port charges, government taxes and applicable processing fees must be received immediately once a request has been made for a sailing date.

17) Cruise ships depart from either Miami, Florida; Tampa, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; or Los Angeles, California. Airline tickets, airport transfers and miscellaneous expenses are not included. This offer is for the cruise only.

18) Selected sailings are available on a year-round basis, with a surcharge per person for peak season or holiday sailings.

19) Only one travel offer per household may be used in an 18-month period. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional travel package.

20) The winner should not leave for the cruise until receiving written confirmation. All cruises are booked according to the availability of Mini Vacations Inc.'s allotment of staterooms.

21) The Brooklyn Papers, Michael C. Fina and Mini Vacations Inc. are not to be held responsible for any act of God, and/or any other circumstances beyond their control, that causes the cruise to become unavailable. Mini Vacations Inc. reserves the right to substitute the cruise if the participants of the offered vacation and varied itinerary should circumstances so require. If this

offer becomes unavailable to Mini Vacations Inc., Mini Vacations Inc. has the option to substitute another travel incentive of equal or greater value.

22) The Brooklyn Papers, Michael C. Fina and Mini Vacations Inc. and its agents, assignees or designees act independently of the cruise lines and not as agents or employees thereof, and will not assume responsibility for any loss, delay, accident, injury or damage to persons, property or any liability whatsoever arising from or in conjunction with the services provided by the cruise lines.

23) The Brooklyn Papers, Michael C. Fina and Mini Vacations Inc. assumes no responsibility for any verbal or written representations made in conjunction with this offer by any distributor and/or their agents other than those included in this offer.

24) An alternate winner may be selected in the event of noncompliance with any of the contest rules.

25) All federal, state and local laws apply and the payment of all taxes is the sole responsibility of the winner. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

26) The Brooklyn Papers reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to extend or cancel the contest.

27) In the event of any dispute pertaining to this contest, the decision of The Brooklyn Papers management is final.

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# The Brooklyn Bride

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Published by The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
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Brooklyn Bride Editorial Department: (718) 834-9350 ext. 131 • [Curts@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Curts@BrooklynPapers.com)  
Wedding/Engagement Announcements: [www.TheBrooklynBride.com](http://www.TheBrooklynBride.com)  
Advertising Department: (718) 834-9350 ext. 104 • [Ads@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Ads@BrooklynPapers.com)  
Celia Weintraub, Publisher • Neil Sloane, Editor • Lisa J. Curtis, The Brooklyn Bride Editor

Our next issue is unveiled August 13  
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*The Brooklyn Bride*

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# Cinderella for a day

From pumpkin-shaped carriages to Rolls Royces, how to exit and arrive at your ceremony in style

By AJLA GROZDANIC  
for The Brooklyn Papers

## Bride's Guide

**Valentine Carriage** (88 South Durham Estate Rd., Avenel, NJ 07001) can be reached at (800) 529-8819 or via their Web site, [www.valentinecarriage.com](http://www.valentinecarriage.com). For more information about **Fantasia Brass Costumed Trumpeters**, call (888) 423-6327 or visit their Web site [www.fantasiabronze.com](http://www.fantasiabronze.com). For information about limousine rentals, call **Excalibur Extravaganza Limousine** (9307 Third Ave., at 93rd Street in Bay Ridge) at (718) 745-3443 or visit their Web site at [www.excaliburlimo.com](http://www.excaliburlimo.com). Or call **Executive Stretch** Co. (2342 West 25th St., at 86th Street in Gravesend) at (718) 261-3445 or (718) 449-2400 or visit their Web site at [www.executivestretch.com](http://www.executivestretch.com).

It's a rare little girl who hasn't dreamed of being Cinderella — at least for a day. The fantasy goes something like this: Her life is about to change when she arrives at the grandiose ball in a pumpkin carriage pulled by a set of beautiful, white horses. Her entrance is announced by royal trumpeters. And inside the enchanted palace, er, reception hall, Prince Charming awaits, ready to sweep her off her feet and dance the night away.

No longer the stuff of childhood dreams, fairytales are becoming reality for women of all ages in Brooklyn. Believe it or not, there is a fairy godmother out there waiting to turn you into a Cinderella for a day.

But she doesn't work for free. You must supply the necessary coin along with a healthy dose of imagination.

The other catch? It's BYOP (Bring Your Own Prince). And it would help if the two of you were ready to get married.

"We get a lot of brides in their 30s and 40s, but 80 percent of the brides are in their 20s," said Paula Valentine, one of New York's fairy godmothers and co-owner of the Bronx-based Valentine Carriage, which specializes in storybook weddings and other events.

For brides who want to live out their fantasy to the fullest, Paula and her son, Richie Valentine, have added an enclosed, transparent Cinderella pumpkin carriage to their fleet.

"The pumpkin carriage is getting more and more popular," Valentine told GO Brooklyn.

The carriage comes equipped with two white horses and two coachmen

dressed in elegant blue and silver attire (that's definitely not from this century). The fee of \$1,500 will get you the fairy-tale package for three hours. The full royal treatment includes Richie announcing the bride's parents as the king and queen upon their arrival to the ceremony.

"We announce them as the royal family," explained Valentine. She says the exact phrasing is changeable but usually goes something like: "Her Royal Majesty, mother of the bride, Queen — insert real name — and His Royal Majesty, father of the bride, King Edward or Richard — or whatever his name is — of Bensonhurst or Staten Island — or wherever they are from."

"Fathers love it," said Paula. Princess also announces the bride as a prince. After the church ceremony, he makes a final announcement, honoring the bride and the groom for the first time together as prince and princess of their home neighborhood.

The Valentines have helped thousands of blushing brides make a fairy-tale en-

trance on their big day, rain or shine.

Snow, on the other hand, is a bit tougher on the horses.

Billy and Stormy, two 1,800-pound white draft horses, were used in a Bath Beach Cinderella wedding in May. This breed, commonly used in farm labor as well as to pull carriages, is larger than the average horse. Adorned with feathers and harnesses, they were a crowd-pleasing attraction in their own right, as they elegantly arrived at St. Finbar's Roman Catholic Church with the bride and her father in tow.

"We do hundreds of weddings a year," said Paula. "Sometimes three to four weddings in one day."

Because of the growing demand, the Valentines recommend booking the carriage six months to a year in advance. At present, six white horses and six different carriages are available for rental.

## Transportation alternatives

For a less expensive fantasy, non-Cinderella types can choose from Valentine Carriage's selection of more conventional open and enclosed coaches and carriages, which, at \$950 for three hours, come with white horses and coachmen dressed in top hats, tails, breeches and tall boots.

Brides who have outgrown the fairy-tale stage of their life and would like to adapt their wedding to the 21st century, have the option of making their grand entrance — and exit — in a sharp-looking stretch limousine.

The classically elegant bride can make her mark in an always chic Rolls Royce. The two-passenger Comiche is in the \$600 to \$720 price range, while the four-passenger Princess can be booked at \$450 for three hours at Excalibur Extravaganza Limousine in Bay Ridge.

While some modern brides may opt for the standard Lincoln Towncar, which seats 12 and costs \$400 for three hours, other contemporary brides' needs might be met with a more SUV-style vehicle.

Excalibur's 24-passenger "Hammer" (\$900 for three hours) or their newest addition, Infinity QX56 (\$1000 for three hours), are popular choices for large wedding parties.

Some brides rent two limos, one for the married couple and the other for the bridal party, said Michael Mallia, owner of Executive Stretch in Bensonhurst. A popular classical combination, he said, is the company's signature four-passenger 1933 Packard (\$800 for three hours) for the bride and groom and a 14-passenger Lincoln (\$300 for three hours) for the wedding party. A more hip couple, Mallia said, might opt for an eight-passenger Jaguar (\$700 for three hours) or Mercedes (\$800 for three hours) for themselves and an 18-passenger Cadillac Escalade or a Hummer H2 (both \$800 for three hours) for their party.

One of the newest trends, said Denise Burnard, owner of Mallia's employees, is the limo has (\$700 for three hours). The 18-passenger vehicle looks like a minibus on the outside, while its interior resembles a high-tech entertainment room, complete with coaches, television screens and DVD players.

"Brides like it because you can stand up in it and walk around," said Burnard. There seems to be a way for every bride to make an unforgettable grand entrance, no matter how classically understated, cutting edge or just plain extravagant her style may be.

"It was beautiful," Valentine said of the Bath Beach wedding. "People were waiting outside, she said, cheering and clapping as the trumpet players announced the bride's arrival."

"She looked like a princess."

The 20-something Midwood bride in question made her fairy-tale complete with a band of four trumpeters from the Fantasia Brass company. They played "Here Comes the Bride" and other celebratory tunes as the bride arrived at church in the pumpkin carriage and, afterwards, as she rode off into the sunset (to her reception hall in Coney Island) together with her prince in a Mercedes limo.

And although it does not come with an ever-after marriage guarantee, a horse-drawn carriage plus the royal treatment, will ensure that at least your wedding day feels like a fairy-tale.

Just the two of us: The Rolls Royce Comiche from Excalibur Extravaganza Limousine is an elegant option for a bride and her groom.

# Don't go bridal

How-to book puts focus on being a calmer, happier bride

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Bride Editor

## Bride's Guide

"Wedding Goddess: A Divine Guide to Transforming Wedding Stress into Wedding Bliss," by Laurie Sue Brockway (Perigee Books, \$16.95), is available at, or can be ordered through, The Bookmark Shoppe (6706 11th Ave., at 69th Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 680-3468), BookCourt (163 Court St., at Dean Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677) and Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave., at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (212) 822-9066). For more information, visit [www.WeddingGoddess.com](http://www.WeddingGoddess.com).

ily issues, unresolved history with past lovers or lessening growing distance between the bride and groom.

Brockway's advice is akin to flashing a light under the bed. If you face the marriage-monster under the mattress, you'll find that there's nothing to it and you'll be able to come to terms with setbacks and enjoy this important time. But if you don't, you could continue to be a prisoner of your fears or anger or worse, boil over at an inopportune time.

A bride might not feel comfortable talking to her mother, friends or the groom about negative aspects of the wed-

ding planning process because the engagement process is supposed to be a joyful, romantic time, full of anticipation.

And for the most part, it is.

But for those times when the bride needs to vent, Brockway has "nominational, interfaith, creative, contemporary, spiritual" instructions on how to relieve the stress, whether its meditation techniques or seeing a therapist.

Even if you think you'll never be a candidate for an episode of "Bridezilla," every bride can get overwhelmed when juggling the needs of their groom, two families, and all of their friends while under financial strain. Brockway advises taking control by doing something as easy as finding a friendly ear. She suggests reaching out to a support group like the Bridal Survival Club (available through the New York Wedding Group) or visiting the many chat sites and message boards on the internet such as theoknet.com, weddingchannel.com or the "Bridezilla Confession Booth" at [goingbridal.com](http://goingbridal.com).

But most importantly she gives advice on how to slow down and simply enjoy the journey more:

- Bring a camera to capture the expressions on your parents' faces when you tell them you are engaged, your wedding rehearsal, trying on dresses, and other happy events. Combine the photos with memorabilia you find along the way to create a scrapbook you'll always cherish.

- If you have ceremony stage fright (Brockway calls it "performance anxiety"), try your dress on when you're home alone and practice moving around in it and visualizing how you want to look at the event (sexy, glamorous or joyous). Plus, who doesn't want to spend extra time prancing around in their wedding dress?

- Put time to rejuvenate yourself on your to-do list. Use it to get a massage, exercise or read a great book.

As Brockway says, "What can set you apart from all who take a traditional 'Stress Express' to the altar is to make a decision up front that you will go about the business of being a bride with the conscious intention to stay present, enjoy the journey, and feel the blessings of this very short yet intense period of your life."

The Brooklyn Bride continues inside ~ Win a honeymoon cruise!